



The guerrilla leader Ahmed Shah Masoud, left, escorting Benon Sevan, a special UN envoy, toward the Masoud home for talks in Charikar, north of Kabul, on Wednesday.

Guerrillas, Unopposed, Reach the Edges of Kabul

By Edward A. Gargan New York Times Service KABUL — Columns of guerrillas armed with rockets, automatic weapons and backed by tanks moved along roads leading to the Afghan capital on Wednesday. There were hundreds of guerrillas, less than five miles (eight kilometers) from Kabul's northern edges, marching unopposed to Kabul. The rebels, who said they belonged to the rebel group called Islamic Society, exhibited no pre-battle tension, instead displaying the cool confidence of victors. "We don't know when we will go to Kabul," said Mohammed Sharif, the thickly bearded commander of the column. "If they tell me to go, we will go to Kabul."

An exhausted and despondent Abdul Wakil, Afghanistan's foreign minister, held a lengthy and rambling news conference pleading that guerrillas not enter Kabul. Declaring that the remaining government authority in Kabul, both the army and the former ruling Watan, or Homeland Party, intended to cooperate with the Islamic rebels, he demanded that they cease fighting and join talks, a demand that seemed to carry little force in the surrounded city. Only Kabul remains under the shaky sway of the government and the army of the former president, General Najibullah. As the rebels advance in mass and at great speed, it may be only a few days before the

capital is occupied by the guerrillas who have been at war for 13 years, first with the Soviet occupying army and then with the proxy government of General Najibullah. Meanwhile, the United Nations special envoy, Benon Sevan, continued his efforts to salvage a peace settlement that might spare the country further bloodshed by meeting with Ahmed Shah Masoud, the leader of Islamic Society, one of the most powerful of the rebel groups. Their meeting, held in Charikar, north of Kabul, followed a similar discussion Mr. Sevan had on Tuesday with General Abdul Rashid Dostam, the commander of a military coalition controlling most of northern Afghanistan.

"We can go to Kabul without fighting," Mr. Masoud said, in an interview with journalists before meeting Mr. Sevan. "If we took Charikar and Bagram easily, it would be easy for us to go into Kabul," he said, "but we want to talk to other groups." He uttered his words without bravado, without an air of triumph. Besides Mr. Masoud's forces, guerrillas loyal to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the extreme fundamentalist leader of the Islamic Party, were moving swiftly toward the capital from the south. Mr. Masoud insisted that he and his allies See KABUL, Page 7

IMF Reading: World Growth Will Be Soft Until 1993

By Steven Greenhouse New York Times Service WASHINGTON — The International Monetary Fund sharply revised its forecast Wednesday for the world economy, saying growth would come to only a sluggish 1.4 percent this year.

In October, the IMF predicted 2.7 percent growth in 1992, but fund officials said they reduced that forecast largely because the United States was taking longer than expected to recover. The fund said the world economy would grow by a healthy 3.6 percent next year. In its World Economic Outlook report, the IMF said the U.S. economy was beginning to turn up, forecasting that the country's output would grow by 2.3 percent from fourth quarter to fourth quarter. Michael Mussa, the fund's chief economist, added at a press conference that he would not be surprised if the U.S. economy grew by 3 percent this year. The report said it would be unwise for the U.S. Federal Reserve to lower interest rates further since the recovery appeared to be taking hold.

"Barring evidence that growth continues to falter," it said, "a further significant reduction of interest rates does not seem warranted in the United States."

The decline in interest rates already in place should produce the long-awaited strengthening of activity, the report noted. Worried that further monetary easing could ultimately overstimulate the economy, the report added that underlying inflation in the United States still appeared "to be above long-term objectives."

Consumer prices will rise 3.1 percent both this year and next, compared with 4.2 percent inflation last year, it predicted. "The significant decline in short-term interest rates in North America and Japan — made possible by the continued moderation of inflation — is expected to contribute to a strengthening of growth during 1992," the report said.

Mr. Mussa said the U.S. economy would not rebound at the 5 percent or 6 percent rate generally seen in the first year after other post-World War II recessions See IMF, Page 7

U.S. and EC Fail to End Impasse in Trade Talks

Farm Subsidies Block Accord, but Negotiators Extend Deadline to June

By Tom Redburn International Herald Tribune WASHINGTON — President George Bush and European leaders failed Wednesday to break a stalemate over farm subsidies, almost certainly closing off any chance of reaching a wide-ranging global trade agreement this year. At a White House meeting, part of a series of semiannual summit meetings designed to foster ties between the European Community and the United States, Mr. Bush met with Jacques Delors, president of the EC Commission, and Prime Minister Aníbal Cavaco Silva of Portugal, which occupies the rotating EC presidency. But neither side convinced the other to give much ground on the farm-subsidy question.

Although a number of sticky issues remain to be settled in the global trade talks, held under EC investigators uncover questionable practices by dairy producers. Page 13.

the agenda of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the primary dispute revolves around the European Community's reluctance to significantly cut its agriculture subsidies. The United States and its allies in the talks say the costly system of farm supports give many inefficient European producers an unjustified advantage in world trade.

Despite the failure, the leaders promised to keep talking. "We had some serious discussions and the process will go on," Mr. Bush said. "We are convinced, absolutely convinced that the EC leaders are committed to an early agreement, and I hope they know that I am committed to such an early conclusion."

Mr. Cavaco Silva called the session "a meeting among friends that we found very constructive and fruitful." Earlier in the day, Mr. Delors hinted at some minor new proposals he planned to present to Mr. Bush at their meeting Wednesday. But there was no indication that the plan produced a long-awaited breakthrough on the farm subsidy dispute.

A U.S. trade official said that he had given up expecting any GATT deal until after this fall's presidential election at the earliest. "While" Delors insisted that Brussels remained strongly interested in reaching an overall GATT agreement, which he called "indispensable" to help the world economy rebound from its recent bout of stagnation. But he cautioned that Europe was not prepared to accept stringent measures to curb its costly farm subsidies.

"We have to find an equitable solution," he said. "Europe is not ready to pay any price." On Tuesday, however, a senior U.S. official contended that the White House was not prepared to give further ground.

Mr. Delors, at a press conference following the meeting, said that the Community and the United States had once again pushed back their target date for a settlement, hoping to resolve the dispute by the end of June, before the summit meeting of the Group of Seven industrialized countries in early July.

"We are not in the mood to pull back," he said, referring to both parties. "Too much is at stake." Mr. Delors said "new ideas have been advanced on both sides" in an effort to resolve the agricultural stalemate.

At stake in the dispute is the struggle, now more than five years old, to moderate the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the post-World War II system that has helped enhance global economic growth through steady reductions in international trade barriers.

Much of the world's trade in manufactured goods is covered by GATT rules. But global See GATT, Page 7

Battle Rages in Sarajevo

Serbs Fight Muslims to Control Capital

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Serbs and Muslims fought street to street for control of Sarajevo on Wednesday in the fiercest combat yet in this capital during nearly two months of ethnic warfare in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Militant Serbs want part of Sarajevo as the capital of an independent Serbian state carved from Bosnia-Herzegovina, which has seceded from Yugoslavia. "Come and bring any weapons you can find; this is a battle for the freedom and future of Bosnia-Herzegovina," said an appeal by the Bosnian territorial defense organization broadcast by Sarajevo radio. Serbian and Muslim militiamen blazed away with rocket-propelled grenades, recoilless rifles and mortars, ignoring a European Community effort to arrange a cease-fire.

A planned visit to Sarajevo on Thursday by the EC's chief mediator for Yugoslavia, Lord Carrington, and other EC envoys was uncertain.

An EC official, Colin Doyle, was forced to take cover from sniper fire as he spoke to journalists in his Sarajevo hotel. He is assigned to organize the mission by Lord Carrington, chairman of the EC conference on Yugoslavia, who is to be accompanied by the current EC president, João de Deus Pinheiro.

"The trip may now be in jeopardy," Mr. Doyle said, adding that there was no way they could secure Lord Carrington's safety.

"This is mindless violence," he said. "Using a hotel with the EC and journalists in it and a See BOSNIA, Page 7

The Return of Georgian Royalty: Joy, Sadness, a Maddening Trip

By Celestine Bohlen New York Times Service TBILISI, Georgia — It has been 191 years since the Bagrationi family ruled Georgia, but in the Caucasus, people have long memories. So when three Bagrationis recently made their way back to Georgia after a generation in exile, they were showered at every turn with armfuls of roses, bags of tangerines and dried fruits, bottles of champagne accompanied by flowery toasts — offerings of an emotional people who are all the more so when it comes to direct descendants of Tamara, Georgia's legendary 12th-century queen. But the homecoming of the Bagrationis from Bordeaux, France, had its sadnesses too. It was first marred by a blown airplane tire, a 24-hour holdover at a squalid provincial airport in Russia and other symptoms of the last swiftings of a fallen Soviet empire that had succeeded the last Bagrationi king as Georgia's rulers. As a result of the delays, the Bagrationis arrived in Tbilisi a day late, only to learn that

their 79-year-old father, Constantine, who had preceded them in the homeward journey, by a month, had died in a Tbilisi hospital just hours before.

The funeral was held at Tbilisi's central church. Constantine Bagrationi's wish to be buried in his native land, which he had last seen when he left the country as a child in 1922, was fulfilled.

Last Wednesday, as they sat in the airport in Sochi waiting for the plane to Tbilisi, Mr. Bagrationi's wife, Monica, and their two grown children, Ketevan and Alexandre, knew nothing of the sadness that awaited them. Instead, they, like the other 150 or so stranded passengers, concentrated on battling an unfeeling bureaucracy, coming up against the intransparency of a system that has virtually ground to a halt.

(The family tree has many branches: at about the same time, there was a second death in the family: in New York on April 10, Prince Teymuraz Bagration, also 79, and a prominent See GEORGIA, Page 7

Kiosk

Kiev Says Chernobyl Killed 6,000 to 8,000

MOSCOW (APF) — Between 6,000 and 8,000 Ukrainians died in the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, Ukrainian officials said Wednesday at a press conference, billed under the slogan "Chernobyl: Six Years After."

The explosion and fire at the plant on April 26, 1986, sent a radioactive cloud over large areas of Europe. The officials said that deaths among members of the emergency services involved in decontamination were running at three to five times the rates for people of equivalent age.

Only 31 people were officially reported to have died in the accident, which was initially kept secret by the former Soviet government.

Food Is Sent to Sudan

AKOBO, Sudan (Reuters) — The United Nations began ferrying food to thousands of starving people in southern Sudan on Wednesday, three days after the Khartoum government lifted a six-week ban on all relief flights in the region.

Sudan needs to import about 925,000 tons of food due to low crop production this year, the United Nations said in a report released last week. Many seedlings have not been able to plant crops this year since they have fled fighting, relief officials said.

General News

Israeli witnesses said the army shot two Palestinians without warning. Page 2.

U.S. foes of the death penalty have all but given up on blocking it politically. Page 3.

Hanoi pledges all-out assistance in the search for U.S. MIAs as U.S. senators visit. Page 6.

Business/Finance

Hongkong Bank is pressuring shareholders in Midland Bank. Page 11.

SGS-Thomson and Philips set in motion a broad computer-chip agreement. Page 11.

Crossword Page 8.

Weather Page 2.

Dow Close

3,338.77

Down 4.48

The Dollar

DM 1.6623

Yen 134.236

Pound 1.7625

FF 5.6155



Carrying a doll, an anti-abortion advocate demonstrated Wednesday outside the Supreme Court, where arguments in a pivotal abortion rights case were heard. Page 7.

A Smalltown Politician Shows Brown What Politics Is All About

By Maureen Dowd New York Times Service PHILADELPHIA — Jerry Brown knows that some days, and some states, turn out better than others. That's the way the karma crumbles.

Flagged by a flurry of critical news reports, trapped in a monologue that sounds more stale than stormy, Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown Jr., the former California governor, has been carousing around Pennsylvania. Governor Bill Clinton is ignoring him, and contributors to his presidential campaign's "800" number have dropped off.

But if some days have been bad, some nights have been worse.

Just as Jimmy Carter and the Reverend Jesse Jackson did before him, Mr. Brown likes to spend the night with supporters. Brown aides say it underscores the grass-roots nature of his campaign.

"You have to try to be neat," said Mr. Brown, who has been known to leave crumpled wet towels and half-made beds in his wake.

Usually, his hosts — whether he is staying at a homeless shelter in Baltimore, a millionaire's mansion in Dallas, a union official's apartment in Manhattan, a Mormon's home in Salt Lake City or a Catholic Worker center in Philadelphia — are discreet and deferential, allowing Mr. Brown to get to bed quickly and sleep as long as he likes.

But one recent night, as the exhausted candidate sped along a Pennsylvania highway headed for Throop, a working-class suburb of Scranton where he was going to spend the night with strangers, he had no way of knowing that he was about to meet his match: The fading national politician who craves attention versus an up-and-coming local politician who craves attention even more.

Diane Bruno-Nelson, a 33-year-old Throop city councilwoman, had volunteered to put up the candidate in her home.

She had an ambitious plan to make the most of her brief encounter, taking a cue from the movie "My Favorite Year," in which Peter O'Toole's sauntering hero is invited to a

young writer's home in a New York suburb and is greeted by the entire building, including an aunt who wore her wedding dress to the party and the writer's mother, who announces grandly, "Welcome to my humble chalet."

"This," Ms. Bruno-Nelson said happily as Mr. Brown arrived at her home, "is a once-in-a-lifetime deal."

Following is a chronology of their comedy of political manners:

Act One: Bedtime 11:35 P.M.: The candidate enters and is surprised to find a catered party and more than a dozen guests waiting for him. A buffet of cold cuts is set out in the kitchen and two large coffee urns sit under a reproduction of "The Last Supper" in the dining room.

On the blue modular couch in the living room, there is a semicircle of family members, including Ms. Bruno-Nelson's mother, her daughter, her uncle and his wife, her cousin, her husband, and some neighbors, including a fellow Throop council member, Sharon Solis-Sparano, the borough's treasurer, Mary Bibak, and an environmental lawyer, Michael Cowley.

Local reporters swarm over the house. Mr. Brown asks a cameraman to turn off the bright lights aimed at him. "My brain is just foggy," he says.

As the guests pepper the candidate with questions about how he likes Throop and how See BROWN, Page 2

هكذا في الأصل

A Call To Arms In Algeria

Islamic Paper Says: 'Move From Words to Rifles'

ALGIERS—The banned Islamic Salvation Front urged its fundamentalist followers Wednesday to "move from words to rifles," its first direct call for armed struggle since authorities began a crackdown in January.

"To oppression, there is resistance, and we are prepared to sacrifice millions to save Algeria," wrote Mûnir el Djoumaha, a clandestine newspaper published by the Front.

"After vain calls for dialogue, the people should move from words to rifles," it said.

It was not immediately clear whether the publication was expressing the official position of the movement, which was banned March 4 after thousands of arrests, among them top fundamentalist leaders. The Salvation Front still issues communiqués, stamped and signed by officials in hiding.

In one such communiqué, issued in mid-March, the Islamic Salvation Front conceded that attacks on security forces could be the work of militant fundamentalists, as the authorities contend, but did not take responsibility for the violence.

There have been about 50 deaths among security forces since military-backed rulers imposed a state of emergency Feb. 9.

A five-member council, the High State Committee, took power in mid-January to thwart a fundamentalist election victory in the National People's Assembly, removing President Chadli Bendjedid.

The Salvation Front newsletter said the performance of Mohamed Boudiaf's government during its first 100 days in office merited comparisons with Nazi Germany and fascist Italy.

The ruling council on Wednesday announced the names of a 60-member Consultative Council.

Israeli Witnesses Say Army Shot Without Warning

JERUSALEM—An Israeli couple who witnessed a shooting incident in the occupied West Bank have said they saw members of an army undercover unit fire without warning at masked Palestinians, wounding two of them. The report, which directly contradicted an army statement, was believed to be the first time Israeli civilian witnesses have publicly challenged a military account of a shooting in the occupied territories since the start of the Palestinian uprising more than four years ago.

The incident raised further questions about the performance of Israeli undercover units in the territories, who have been repeatedly accused by Palestinian witnesses and human rights groups of gunning down wanted suspects instead of arresting them. The army has consistently denied the charges.

Aviva and David Elimelech said they had been visiting an Arab acquaintance at the village of Dura, near Hebron, on Tuesday when they saw three masked Palestinians preparing to spray-paint nationalist graffiti on a wall.

"Suddenly I saw soldiers in civilian clothes who, without warning, without even telling them to put up their hands, shot them," Mrs. Elimelech said in an interview Tuesday on Israel Radio.

Mr. Elimelech said he saw three men get out of a civilian car carrying a blue West Bank license plate.

"Without a word they fired a burst of gunfire, directly," he said. "The youths' backs were turned to them."

An army statement said the soldiers had warned the Palestinians before opening fire.



A Palestinian struggling to prevent the arrest of her son Wednesday after their home in East Jerusalem was demolished by the authorities, who said it was unsafe.

France Pushes Constitutional Change Tied to EC

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service
PARIS—Amid a growing debate about the risks of losing national sovereignty, the French government proposed major changes in the country's constitution on Wednesday to make it conform with a treaty to establish closer European unity.

The amendments would transfer "all necessary authority" from France to the European Community for border controls and the creation of a single European currency by the end of the decade. EC citizens living in France would be allowed to vote in local elections, but they could not run for office.

The bill to revise the 1958 constitution is likely to escalate anxiety about control over the nation's destiny, as France suddenly awakens to the dramatic impact that may result from the landmark treaty on political and economic union reached by the 12 EC nations in Maastricht, the Netherlands, in December.

Despite its reputation as one of the most ardent advocates of European cooperation, France is now experiencing a fresh wave of doubts about eliminating frontiers within the Community, allowing foreigners the right to vote and merging its fate irrevocably with its neighbors.

Elsewhere in Europe, similar signs of skepticism are growing toward the Maastricht treaty, which can only become effective after ratification by all EC members. Germans, for example, worry that the solid Deutsche mark will be replaced by a more unstable form of money. They fear their European partners are prone to tolerate levels of inflation that they find disdainful.

In Italy and Spain, there is mounting concern that they will be forced to endure stringent austerity regimes over the next few years to meet the tough requirements that the Germans have insisted upon before a single currency can take effect.

In Ireland, the Maastricht agreement has become entangled in an emotional battle over abortion rights, while in Denmark the treaty's opponents now believe they have the votes to defeat it in a referendum on June 2.

Ironically, only Britain, which fought hard against incorporating the more ambitious goal of its partners into the treaty, seems immune to the new political uncertainty about Maastricht. Backed by a solid majority in Parliament after recent elections, Prime Minister John Major expects few problems in overseeing dissent over the treaty.

But in France, the governing Socialists and their mainstream conservative opponents are fearful about taking a bold approach to Europe because of heightened public sensitivity. The groupings that represent the political establishment barely captured half of the votes in recent regional elections, losing ground to fringe parties that campaigned against surrendering more powers to Europe.

Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the far-right National Front, declared that the Maastricht treaty would mean "the beginning of the end of France."

On the left, the Communists have been joined by some leading ecologists and anarchist Socialists in forming a stop-Maastricht alliance.

The political split is most glaring among the conservative alliance linking Jacques Chirac's neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's center-right Union for French Democracy.

Mr. Chirac has criticized the treaty as "abstruse badly written, complex and ambiguous" but has not declared whether he will vote against it. He and his party have urged President François Mitterrand to put the treaty before the public by holding a national referendum.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing, on the other hand, has endorsed the Maastricht treaty and supported Mr. Mitterrand's method of entrusting ratification in the hands of Parliament.

"To say that France is going to be swallowed up inside Europe is nonsense," said Jean François-Poncet, who served as foreign minister during Mr. Giscard d'Estaing's presidency and heads the European Movement in France.

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WORLD BRIEFS

A New Mishap, on Takeoff, for Arafat

TUNIS (Reuters)—The Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, Yasser Arafat, whose plane crash-landed in the Libyan desert earlier this month, was on board a jet that aborted takeoff when its windshield broke, Palestinians said Wednesday.

The incident occurred aboard an executive jet that was to have flown Mr. Arafat from Djerba after a meeting last week with the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the sources said.

"Seconds before taking off the windshield broke, and the pilot knowingly aborted the takeoff," a Palestinian said. No one was injured, and the cause of the windshield breaking was unknown, the source said. On April 7, three crewmen were killed but Mr. Arafat suffered only minor injuries when his plane ran out of fuel and crash-landed in the Libyan desert during a sandstorm.

Duke Bows Out of U.S. Campaign

WASHINGTON (AP)—The former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke ended his Republican presidential bid on Wednesday and said he would not be a third-party candidate for the White House.

Mr. Duke, 41, failed to win any presidential primaries, and numerous state officials refused to put his name on the ballot.

Mount Etna's Lava Flow Is Diverted

CATANIA, Sicily (AFP)—Civil-defense experts said Wednesday that they had blocked off the flow of lava from Mount Etna in a bid to save the village of Zafferana.

The experts said they hoped that the diverted lava would spread and cool harmlessly on the uninhabited slopes, but could make no promises. On Tuesday, U.S. Navy helicopters had dropped more than 40 tons of concrete into a lava-spewing crack of Mount Etna at an altitude of 2,000 meters (6,500 feet) in a last-ditch effort to save Zafferana. Engineers attempted to drop individual concrete blocks but failed when the blocks were carried away by the lava.

Day-Care Operator Guilty in Sex Case

FARMVILLE, North Carolina (AP)—The owner of a day-care center was convicted Wednesday of sexually abusing 12 children in a case that stunned the state and culminated in the longest criminal trial in North Carolina history.

The defendant, Robert F. Kelly Jr., 44, owner of the Little Rainbows nursery in Edenton, was convicted of all but one of 100 charges of taking indecent liberties, first-degree sexual offense and crimes against nature. He faces 40 life terms on 40 rape convictions and a total of 560 years on the other 59 charges. No sentencing date was immediately set. Testimony began in August 1991 in the trial, which was also the costliest ever held in the state.

France Pushes Constitutional Change Tied to EC

PARIS—Amid a growing debate about the risks of losing national sovereignty, the French government proposed major changes in the country's constitution on Wednesday to make it conform with a treaty to establish closer European unity.

Israelis and Moroccans Reportedly Meeting Secretly in Paris

ISRAELI and Moroccan officials are reportedly meeting secretly in Paris to negotiate a deal to fly tourists between the two nations, a Jerusalem newspaper said. El Al airlines and Royal Air Maroc are said to be discussing a plan for El Al to fly to Israel from a European airport, where they would transfer to Royal Air Maroc for the flight to Morocco. A similar route would be used on the Morocco-Israel flight.

Beirut schools, banks, offices and bakeries shut down in both Muslim and Christian quarters Wednesday as thousands of demonstrators converged on parliament to protest the high cost of living.

Angry Helsinki workers brought public transport to a near standstill in and around the capital for about two hours and factories were closed in many parts of the country Wednesday as unions staged an "day of action" against government austerity measures.

Brazil's second-largest airline, VASP, will begin passenger service to Seoul in July, airline officials said Wednesday in Seoul. The airline will be the first from South America to provide service to South Korea. Korean Air, South Korea's carrier, will also open a weekly service linking Seoul, Los Angeles and São Paulo in September, the officials said.

Experts in Pisa Fear for the Tower

PISA, Italy (AP)—A team of experts announced Wednesday that the pace of tilting of the famed leaning tower was increasing and that there was "a danger of a structural collapse with no notice, similar to what happened to Pavia's bell tower." Pavia's 80-meter (250-foot) tower, which was nine centuries old, killed three people when it collapsed in March 1989.

The team said that a project to put five iron support rings around Pisa's tower would start late this month. The tower has been closed to visitors since 1990. It currently leans about 5.5 degrees off the perpendicular.

Israelis and Moroccans are reportedly meeting secretly in Paris to negotiate a deal to fly tourists between the two nations, a Jerusalem newspaper said. El Al airlines and Royal Air Maroc are said to be discussing a plan for El Al to fly to Israel from a European airport, where they would transfer to Royal Air Maroc for the flight to Morocco. A similar route would be used on the Morocco-Israel flight.

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The Weather

Forecast for Friday through Sunday. Includes maps of North America, Europe, and Asia with weather symbols and a table of weather data for various cities.

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BROWN: An American Lesson in Smalltown Politics

(Continued from page 1) and Mary take a shower, before I can take a shower. Forget it, Charlie. It's definitely an experience. 1:30 A.M.: Mr. Brown finally goes to bed, taking the master bedroom. Act Two: Breakfast 7:15 A.M.: While Mr. Brown sleeps, Ms. Bruno-Nelson has gathered another dozen people—"a whole new group," she says proudly—in her basement, including the mayor and police chief of Throop. The coffee urns have moved downstairs, and a catered breakfast has been set up. Crews from local television stations are camped outside and inside a radio station that wants an interview with Brown. "Try back in 10 minutes, maybe you'll get lucky," she advises. When the radio station calls back, Ms. Bruno-Nelson walks out into the hall, stretching the phone cord to its full length, and glares at the closed bedroom door. "Is he awake yet?" she impatiently asks her husband, Bob Nelson, a slender, quiet man who works as a maintenance foreman at the Penn State campus. He asks his wife who should wake him. "You do the honors," she says. 7:30 A.M.: The smoke detector is set off by the cigarette smoke that has been curling in the basement for an hour, but Mr. Brown sleeps through it. 7:40 A.M.: Ms. Bruno-Nelson instructs her reluctant husband through clenched teeth: "I don't care. Wake him up. I want him downstairs. He promised to come down for at least 20 minutes. That's all I ask." 7:45 A.M.: "Is he up yet?" she demands. "He grunted," her husband informs her. 8:10 A.M.: After a quick shower, Mr. Brown emerges in the same double-breasted navy blue suit he was wearing the day before, with fresh blue shirt and tie. "What a crowd here," he says, looking around. Ms. Bruno-Nelson's mother, Anna, 63, asks Mr. Brown if she can have her picture taken with him. "Didn't you get that last night?" he replies, rather grumpily. 8:30 A.M.: After a cup of coffee, the candidate warms up in his rhetoric about the corrupt men's club running Washington. Across the room, Ms. Bruno-Nelson, is giving her own interview to a radio station on her portable phone. "I was excited," she tells the interviewer about Mr. Brown's overnight stay. "But I thought it was a challenge." 8:43 A.M.: Mr. Brown's van pulls out of the driveway. He is half an hour late for his first event at a nearby community center, but he says he enjoyed his grass-roots night. Mr. Barzaghi is upset that Mr. Brown has not got enough rest, noting happily: "That is just the opposite of what he wants and needs."

For Opponents of Death Penalty, Political Hope Runs Out

By Thomas B. Edsall

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Support in the United States for the death penalty has become so strong that liberal adversaries increasingly believe that elective politics has become an almost hopeless avenue in their drive to end capital punishment.

"My analysis of this is that, with the possible exception of Mario Cuomo, there is no way the Democrats can nominate somebody against the death penalty and make it and be viable," said Stephen Bright, director of the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, who has devoted the last 10 years to preventing the use of the death penalty.

Mr. Cuomo, the governor of New York, is one of the few prominent Democrats to oppose the death penalty.

Interviewed after the execution on Tuesday in California of Robert Alton Harris, 39, who was convicted of killing two teenagers, Mr. Bright voiced

frustration with the inability of liberals to persuade politicians or voters to support spending on education, jobs and gun control instead of "spending millions of dollars so we can engage in ritualistic executions."

"Unfortunately," said Vivian Berger, vice dean of Columbia Law School and counsel on capital punishment to the American Civil Liberties Union, referring to politics, "the ordinary day-to-day dialogue is death, death and more death."

President George Bush and Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas, the likely contestants in this year's presidential election, both favor the death penalty. Mr. Clinton, who earlier this year oversaw the execution of Ricky Ray Rector, a black convicted of murder in Arkansas, on Tuesday repeated his support for it under "appropriate circumstances."

Democratic opponents of Mr. Clinton, including Senator Tom Harkin, Democrat of Iowa, who dropped out of the race, and former California

Governor Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown Jr., sought to use the issue to win liberal support in primary elections, with only modest success.

The prospect of a presidential election in which the candidates do not disagree on the death penalty stands in direct contrast to the 1988 contest when Mr. Bush repeatedly capitalized on his support of execution to win support among voters, while the Democratic candidate, Governor Michael S. Dukakis of Massachusetts, appeared to pay a significant price for his opposition to the sanction.

In Congress, the debate is now much less over the death penalty than over the legal protections and appeals available to those facing execution under habeas corpus and other constitutional provisions.

"In terms of public opinion, the death penalty has become a virtually one-sided issue," said a Democratic pollster, Geoff Garin. "There is a clear consensus that the death penalty is a legitimate punishment for the most serious crimes."

According to Gallup surveys, a strong majority supported the death penalty through the 1950s to the start of the 1960s. By 1965, however, the public was effectively split down the middle, 45 percent in favor and 43 percent opposed, and in one year, 1966, opposition reached 47 percent and support fell to 42 percent.

Public opinion then shifted steadily in favor of the death penalty. By 1969, 51 percent supported it and 40 percent were opposed, and by 1981, when President Ronald Reagan took office, the margin of support was 66 to 25, better than 2 to 1. When Mr. Bush ran in 1988, the margin had moved to an overwhelming 79 to 16.

The Supreme Court in 1972 barred the use of the death penalty, but then reinstated it four years later. There are now more than 2,500 people, almost all of them men, on death rows in states across the country.

Tsongas' Doctors Admit Cancer Recurred in '87, A Year After Treatment

By Lawrence K. Altman

New York Times Service

BOSTON — Contrary to their earlier assurances, Paul E. Tsongas's doctors now say that he suffered a recurrence of lymphoma in 1987, less than a year after undergoing an experimental bone marrow transplant, and was treated with an additional course of radiation for the cancer.

Mr. Tsongas said he did not recall his doctors saying that a biopsy of a lymph node from his armpit in the summer of 1987 showed cancer, as the doctors say they did.

Mr. Tsongas, who is the first known cancer survivor to run for president, has remained free of lymphoma, a cancer of the immune system, for five years.

Two doctors who treated him at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston have said that if elected Mr. Tsongas had a favorable prognosis for living out his term and that his health was not a factor in the suspension last month of his campaign for the Democratic nomination for president.

Saying that the recurrence did not affect Mr. Tsongas's prognosis, one of the doctors said he had not mentioned the additional treatment in earlier interviews because it was not important and the other said he had forgotten about it.

But experts not connected with Mr. Tsongas's case said the new details could alter the favorable prognosis that his doctors spoke of during the campaign.

"The significance of a relapse after a bone marrow transplant is huge because it means that the bone marrow transplant did not cure him," said Dr. James O. Armitage, a lymphoma expert at the University of Nebraska, Omaha.

Cures of the type of lymphoma suffered by Mr. Tsongas are rare in cases in which a recurrence follows a bone marrow transplant, the experts said.

Dr. Armitage said a review his team was publishing of 170 lymphoma patients who relapsed after a bone marrow transplant showed that few patients were able to overcome a recurrence.

"It is a very bad thing to fail," he said.

In another new disclosure that contradicts previous statements, the doctors said Mr. Tsongas was not included in a medical journal report indicating a favorable prognosis for patients like Mr. Tsongas, 51, a former senator from Massachusetts.

Until the new disclosures, which came to light after further inquiries by The New York Times about Mr. Tsongas's condition, the doctors had said Mr. Tsongas had been free of disease since the transplant in 1986.

Mr. Tsongas's personal doctor, Tak Takvorian, who cared for Mr. Tsongas during and after his bone marrow transplant, said his team told Mr. Tsongas the biopsy of the lymph node showed lymphoma.

"We never do otherwise," Dr. Takvorian said. "He wasn't being duped."

Mr. Tsongas said that as he recalled it, there was a dispute among the doctors about the biopsy results. He said he did not recall their saying it was indeed lymphoma and said they decided to give extra radiation treatments as a preventive measure in case the node was malignant.

Washington Criticizes Fujimori's Timetable For Democracy in Peru

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The United States expressed dissatisfaction on Wednesday with President Alberto Fujimori's timetable for restoring democracy in Peru.

Under strong international pressure, Mr. Fujimori pledged in an address Tuesday to hold a plebiscite this summer on his decision to dissolve the National Congress and close the courts.

The plebiscite would be followed by a referendum on constitutional changes and then by congressional elections over the next 10 months.

"That timetable was shorter than the previous proposals he has announced," said the State Department spokeswoman, Margaret D. Tutwiler, "but in our opinion it would still leave Peru without constitutional processes for nearly a year."

Mr. Fujimori suspended constitutional rule on April 5, provoking the freezing of most U.S. non-humanitarian aid and condemnation from the 34-member Organization of American States.

Miss Tutwiler said that Washington would consult with its partners in the Organization of American States on the latest developments.

But she said the U.S. government still regarded Mr. Fujimori as Peru's president, despite the swearing in on Tuesday of Vice President Máximo San Román, who in a mainly symbolic act took the oath of office as "constitutional president" before nearly 200 members of the disbanded legislature.

In his 25-minute taped television address Tuesday night, Mr. Fujimori said that a referendum on the emergency measures would be held July 5, with new elections for the National Congress in February and lawmakers convening next April.

The president has called his seizure of power essential in salvaging a sick economy, ending political corruption and defeating drug traffickers and leftist guerrillas.

In his address, Mr. Fujimori said he hoped his announcement would convince foreign countries that Peru was committed to democracy and "building a new, modernized state."

He expressed disappointment with the harsh international criticism, but said he understood the "initial distrust."

"We are not destroying democracy, but cleaning the ground to build a new, more efficient democracy," Mr. Fujimori said.

He said he would convene a "national dialogue" Aug. 5 to discuss constitutional changes.

Regional and municipal elections will be held on Nov. 8, when voters also will be asked to approve or disapprove measures decided on during the August "dialogue," Mr. Fujimori said.

(Reuters, AP)



RESCUERS AT WORK IN A TIGHT SPOT — A rescuer giving emergency medical treatment to the victim of a car crash in Salisbury, Maryland, as fire fighters worked to free him. The man was flown to a local hospital. His condition was not released.

Skydivers Crash Before Any Jump

The Associated Press

PERRIS, California — A plane loaded with skydivers crashed during takeoff Wednesday, killing 15 of the 22 people aboard and injuring the remaining 7, authorities said.

The twin-engine De Havilland DHC-6 Twin Otter plunged into a grassy area at the southwest end of a runway at the rural Perris Valley Airport, shearing off the nose of the aircraft and both wings.

Fifteen deaths were confirmed and seven persons were hospitalized, fire officials said.

HOUSE: 50 U.S. Representatives Opt for Retirement Amid Scandal and Political Gridlock

(Continued from page 1)

dal or, among others, faint hopes for the first Republican majority since 1955.

Noting the profound impact of the bank scandal on voter thinking this year, an aide to the House Republican whip, Newt Gingrich of Georgia, said Tuesday, "Even if it doesn't result in our gaining control of the House in nominal terms, there will be no doubt the turnover will be invigorating, both for the Democrats and the Republicans."

The bank scandal involved the writing by more than 300 representatives and former representatives of bad checks on their accounts with the House Bank. In all cases, the overdrafts were covered.

The House is currently composed of 368 Democrats, 166 Republicans and nine independents.

Before Mr. Broomfield's announcement, the previous postwar record of voluntary retirements was 49, in 1978.

Thirteen members have abandoned their seats to seek higher office, while 37 have retired for other reasons. Thirty-three of those departing are Democrats, and 17 are Republicans. Five lawmakers have been defeated in primaries.

What the House press gallery calls the "casualty list" includes the chairman of three committees and more than a dozen members who serve on either the influential Appropriations or Ways and Means committees.

Departing members have cited redistricting — the reapportionment among the states of the 435 House seats every 10 years according to changes in the census — as the leading reason. Incumbents such as Representative Howard E. Wolpe, Democrat of Michigan, and Representative Frank Annunzio, Democrat of Illinois, have decided against running in largely unfamiliar territory or opposing another incumbent.

The Voting Rights Act has shaped redistricting in several states that are likely to be responsible for a sizeable increase in minority lawmakers next year. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has estimated an increase of 16 in the number of black and Hispanic members.

In the last redistricting year, 1982, there were 40 voluntary retirements.

One of the factors introduced since then has been a variety of heightened frustrations with serving in the House. The number of Senate retirements this year, seven, is about average.

Ex-Editor in Chicago To Join a Bid by Perot

The Associated Press

DALLAS — A former editor of The Chicago Tribune, James D. Squires, is joining the staff of Ross Perot, the billionaire executive, to handle media operations in an independent presidential campaign by Mr. Perot.

Mr. Squires, editor of The Tribune from 1981 to 1989, teaches at Middle Tennessee State University. He will join the campaign full time in mid-May, said Tom Luce, a longtime Perot associate.

Mr. Perot says he will run if his supporters can get him on the ballot in all 50 states.

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Herald Tribune

Published With The New York Times and The Washington Post

Ease the Afghan Endgame

The guerrillas always said the essential condition for an end to Afghanistan's dragged-out war was the ouster of Major General Najibullah, the deposed former secret police chief whom the Soviet army set up in power. Failing as a stooge, he sought in vain to reinvent himself as an upholder of Afghan unity and stability. Now, denied all external support, forced to resign by his own army and holed up in the regime's last redoubt of Kabul, he is reduced to seeing to his personal retreat (to India) under the auspices of the United Nations.

Kabul itself is the scene of a fateful political exercise. Offered the services of a UN mediator to make a safe and orderly transition to post-Najibullah rule, the various resistance factions appear to have chosen a do-it-yourself model instead. That could yet mean heavy further strife among groups divided by ethnic, tribal and religious passions and their leaders' personal ambitions. But it could also advance an authentically Afghan method of consultation that seems already to have produced a largely peaceful transition in many cities. Especially important is the effort by the leading resistance commander, Ahmed

Shah Masoud, to hold back from taking over Kabul, where the government presence withers by the day, in favor of a consensus liberation. Certainly the guerrillas, reclaiming a broken country, have reason to confound the familiar stereotype of Afghan bloody-mindedness.

For many in Afghanistan, the endgame comes down to a matter of personal survival or ethnic advantage. Yet the great question is whether the war is leaving any deeper sense of a single nation whose parts are bound up in a common fate, ideally a democratic one. During the war the various parties and their foreign supporters, including the United States, almost inevitably cultivated one group or another. This is the way it has always been in Afghanistan. But with the onset of what deserves to become a sturdy and extended international commitment to healing, there should be a tight check on playing to ethnic favorites for strategic or other purposes of foreign design. Aid must be magnanimous. It must also be based on the earned tribute and shared need of all of Afghanistan's citizens who contributed to the anti-Soviet cause.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

To Close the Wealth Gap

On all sides, rich Americans are under attack. Shareholders want revenge for huge compensation packages paid to corporate executives. Congress wants to squeeze higher taxes out of millionaires. The Democrat Bill Clinton invites voters with his favorite statistic: The richest 1 percent of families got 60 percent of the increase in average family income between 1977 and 1989. The actual figure, 70 percent, is even more startling. Historically, income gaps between the rich and poor have stayed fairly constant from one generation to the next. But in the 1980s all that changed dramatically.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the richest 20 percent of families took more than 100 percent of the growth in average family income. How could that be? The bottom 40 percent of the population actually lost ground. Even after correction or adjustment, the CEO figures keep showing the same thing: In the last 15 years the rich have grown a lot richer.

How did so few capture so much? Some people, like Mr. Clinton, blame Republican callousness in the Reagan-Bush years, or congressional subservience to special interests. But those explanations do not explain this massive inequality. It started in the 1970s, when Jimmy Carter was president. Meanwhile, similar trends showed up in Europe and Canada.

Others blame foreign competition and the shift of production from manufacturing, with lots of high-paying blue-collar jobs, to service industries. But this argument is contradicted by data showing that most of the growing income inequality occurred within individual manufacturing and service industries, even those immune from foreign competition.

Yes, during the 1980s the stock market tripled and inflation-adjusted interest rates hit unprecedented levels, all favoring the rich. But wages and salaries account for more than three-quarters of family income — and for most of the growing difference between rich and poor.

Between 1939 and 1975, the wage gap between high- and low-skilled workers barely changed. During the 1980s the gap

doubled. At the start of the decade, college graduates with a few years of work experience were earning about 30 percent more than high school graduates; 10 years later the gap was 60 percent.

Economists are increasingly persuaded that this rising inequality cannot be explained by anything as simple as greed, politics or foreigners. They look to something more deeply ingrained in modern industrialized economies. Call it technology, for short. The days when high school dropouts could earn high wages in manufacturing are gone. Modern economies more than ever require educated, skilled labor.

That explanation ought to jolt people out of traditional remedies. For one thing, tinkering with tax rates to favor the poor will not accomplish much. Studies show that even if Congress were prepared to jack up tax rates on the rich greatly while cutting taxes for the poor, the impact on income inequality would be trivial.

But government need not watch helplessly as income differences widen; it can act to narrow them. Consider the example of Canada. It experienced similar inequality trends in the 1980s, but it beefed up its anti-poverty programs and kept the poverty rate flat. In the United States the rate rose.

The modern industrial economy is calling out for skilled, educated workers. Government knows how to answer that call — and thus knows how to counter the widening income gap. The right way for Congress to respond is to promote the education of sophisticated workers. That means massive new commitments to Head Start, to primary and secondary education, to training high school dropouts and welfare mothers, to more higher education of different kinds, to workplace training.

Like other Democrats, Mr. Clinton is not bashful about bashing the rich. But his program nonetheless resonates because it turns on just such investments in people. One need not be a Clinton partisan to recognize that it is in every American's interest to create a new economic reality, one in which the rest of the population gets richer, too.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

A Barbaric Conclusion

The execution of Robert Alton Harris early Tuesday morning in California came at the end of a cruel and grotesque night. Convicted of the 1978 murder of two teenagers, Mr. Harris had spent 13 years appealing his sentence in state and federal courts. He had won reprieves four times during the last hours of his life, but each time, after transmittal pleadings and urgent petitions to the U.S. Supreme Court, throughout the night, the stays were lifted. At one point he was strapped into the death chair for 12 minutes before being released on the order of an appellate court, only to return two hours later after the last appeal failed.

Every detail of the scene has been reported, from his final words foretelling his imminent dance "with the Grim Reaper" to a second-by-second recounting of every grimace and convulsion seen during the 19 minutes it took him to die. This was California's first execution in a quarter of a century.

According to opinion polls, a majority of Americans react with satisfaction when a terrible killer is executed. We find ourselves in that shrinking minority that is repelled by the spectacle and unalterably opposed to it.

We believe it is wrong, wrong even when it is applied to a particularly unsympathetic convict such as Mr. Harris. He deserved to be imprisoned for life, and that would have been just in light of his offenses. But the grisly, official, sanctioned and witnessed death that was his end was barbaric.

Thirty-six states have enacted capital punishment statutes since 1976, when the Supreme Court reinstated the penalty. But only about half have actually executed anyone; most of those are in the South. Proponents of the penalty see a breakthrough now as California begins to execute its prisoners. The largest state has now broken a taboo and will presumably turn next to the remaining 328 convicts awaiting execution there. More than 2,500 are on death row around the country, and the pace of executions will probably pick up. In this climate it is more important than ever that Congress preserve the right to federal habeas corpus review, insist that states provide competent counsel throughout the appellate process and stand fast against expanding the death penalty to dozens of federal crimes.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Serbia Won't Be Impressed

Western states are starting to lose patience with Serbia, but what might the consequences be? The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe might suspend the membership of Yugoslavia. But Yugoslavia has collapsed. A suspension of diplomatic relations would have more effect, but the West will decide on this step only at the end of May, if at all. By then the Serbian army will have crushed Bosnia-Herzegovina.

—Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

A Cruel Farce in California

[Tuesday's] dreadful black farce on California's Death Row did no service to those who plead the cause of capital punishment. The panoply of judicial execution is always ugly. Yet the saga of a man being strapped in a chair in the gas chamber, then removed after a court granted a stay of execution, then returned to die two hours later after a higher court overturned the earlier stay created a monstrous parody of justice.

—The Daily Telegraph (London).

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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France
Tel.: (1)46.37.93.00. Telex: Advertising, 613999; Circulation, 612833; Editorial, 612718; Production, 630698

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Stopping Halfway Along the Road to a New Order

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — The collapse of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia has loosened upon the world 20 new fragile nation-states. Iraq, another important creation of 20th century political engineers, totters toward disintegration while Ethiopia and Somalia deconstruct themselves.

All this change can sound like a script for a New World Disorder rather than for the harmonious global arrangement under American leadership that President George Bush sketched a year ago as the Gulf War ended.

But there may be a silver lining. This cloud of immediate turmoil and regrettable human suffering

liberation powered a similar optimism about the ability of the modern state to remake its citizens. In the era of decolonization, scores of Third World states gained independence and ran up their flags at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

But political sovereignty so casually granted to geographic entities with neither national cohesion nor the economic resources to create and sustain that cohesion turned out to be fool's gold. The flags fluttering over the East River provide cold comfort for the deepening poverty and insecurity that mark everyday life in the former Soviet Union, in Africa and in most of Asia today.

Individual officials in the Bush administration have recognized the deep currents of change sweeping the international order. Partly through their efforts and partly because of events, America today supports in three different cases the duty of the United Nations to intervene in what were once considered the internal affairs of member states.

Through Security Council resolutions, Iraq's citizens have been formally promised UN protection from Saddam Hussein's murderous regime. Sanctions have been imposed on Libya for refusing to turn over two of its citizens accused of masterminding the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. In the Yugoslav crisis, the central authorities in Belgrade were maneuvered into accepting UN peacekeeping forces in their fragmenting country.

Admittedly, the Bush administration has been selective in its outrage, sparing China and other serious human rights abusers for dubious reasons. But its willingness to help define an international right to intervene and to see it used in these specific cases is a praiseworthy innovation.

Washington's senior policymakers do not seem, however, to have thought through the implications and consequences of this new collective interventionism. On key points, Washington stops halfway and risks bringing about the worst of all worlds.

The United States says it is committed to maintaining Iraq's territorial integrity. But its deeds increase the pressures for an uncontrolled dismemberment of the artificial creation that brought unwilling Kurds into the same state structure as rival Arab Sunni and Shiite Muslims.

While providing protection for the Kurds and the independent elections they will hold soon, the United States also enforces economic sanctions that reduce the Sunnis to misery and despair. Saddam is left in place and free to persecute the Shiites. What precious little national fabric existed to unite the three groups in the past is being ground into bits. When it comes, Iraq's breakup will be seen as a result of U.S. action, not of natural internal forces.

In Yugoslavia, the Bush administration declined a request from the United Nations to contribute a small number of U.S. troops to the peacekeeping unit for symbolic effect. The proposal had the support of UN mediator Cyrus Vance and would have matched a contribution of troops by Russia. The election-year anxieties of President Bush and Secretary of State Jim Baker prevailed. The American answer was no. An opportunity to enhance UN credibility and to demonstrate U.S. commitment to effective interventionism was missed.

America's promising beginning in pressing the international community to intervene against desperate regimes will wither away if it becomes too selective and halfhearted. That will leave the field clear for desperadoes and a New World Disorder that they would promote.

The Washington Post.

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The Washington Post.

Sorcerer's Apprentices Conjure Serbian Calamity

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The present Serbian government's program to make a "greater" Serbia, incorporating large parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as of Croatia, seems on its way to success. There is no one to stop it.

The Serbian-dominated federal army in the region, possessing heavy weapons. The newly arrived United Nations peacekeeping force and the European Community's observers are being brushed aside. Neither have the means or the mission to fight Serbia.

The Serbs' reward will be a big, economically crippled Serbian-Montenegrin union facing the prospect of invasion by 1.5 million Albanians in Kosovo, whom the Serbian authorities now dominate and oppress. The union will be surrounded by pillaged neighbors, their hatred of Serbia recklessly

reawakened, awaiting revenge. This new state will be isolated internationally. It already suffers economic and diplomatic sanctions imposed by all the democracies. It will be deprived of all successor rights pertaining to the former state of Yugoslavia. It will have squandered the sympathies of the Allied powers of both world wars, whose Serbia's allies.

What an achievement for Slobodan Milosevic and his government — who told their fellow Serbs that "with us there is no uncertainty"! There is none, indeed: This victory for Serbian irredentism and expansionism is prodigious to a national catastrophe.

When Washington took the initiative last week to propose Serbia's expulsion from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe if its aggression does not halt, it was an overdue change in American policy, although Washington's reluctance until now to take such a step was comprehensible. U.S. Ambassador Warren Zimmerman and the Department of State kept up their dialogue with the former state of Yugoslavia. It will have squandered the sympathies of the Allied powers of both world wars, whose Serbia's allies.

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historian A. J. P. Taylor has said — that "Serbs, Croats and Slovenes would merge into Yugoslavia as Prussians, Saxons and Bavarians had merged into Germany."

However, the internal frontiers of contemporary Yugoslavia were not drawn by well-meaning outsiders but by officials of Tito's revolutionary government, among them Milovan Djilas, afterward a celebrated dissident writer and political theorist. He and his colleagues did their best to draw lines in communities of hopelessly intermingled ethnic composition. Bosnia-Herzegovina being the most dramatic case of communal complexity. They understood that the permanence of their arrangements depended entirely upon tolerance and goodwill among the people who made up Yugoslavia.

But the idea of the ethnic nation has once again proven not only destructive but self-destructive. The struggle for ethnic purity and domination inevitably turns everyone else against the nation which claims the ethnic advantage.

The Serbs' enemies surround them and will never go away. Croats and Serbs, however much they hate and butcher one another, are condemned to live together. There is nothing either can do about it. Their only choice is whether to live at war or in peace.

The crime of this Serbian government, in which the Croatian leadership was last year its fellow-crime, is to have waned and, above all, stupidly destroyed the fragile accommodation of the Yugoslav peoples to one another. The trust imposed after World War II lasted for 46 years, until last year. These leaders who have destroyed it will eventually have an account to pay, and they will have to pay it first of all to their own peoples, whose condition they have ruined in the ignoble attempt to dominate the others.

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The U.S. Budget Deficit Should Alarm America

By Alan C. Lerner

WASHINGTON — Official Washington and would-be presidents are scrambling to come up with credible plans to stimulate the American economy. Inevitably, the debate goes to the budget deficit and its relationship to GNP. But what really matters is the impact of the deficit on the capital markets, where private and public borrowers compete with the federal government for funds.

To gauge its potential for driving up interest rates and impeding the economy, the deficit should be measured against the domestic personal savings pool, which underwrites all forms of debt, ranging from Treasury and corporate borrowing to home mortgages. Here, the numbers are truly alarming.

During the 1970s, the deficit as a percentage of personal savings averaged 38 percent. It soared to 117 percent in the 1980s, topped 160 percent in 1991, and in 1992 will likely reach 225 percent.

Obviously, the United States no longer has a large enough pool of domestic savings to meet the financing needs of a healthy private economy in tandem with a burgeoning federal deficit. Even in a meagering economy with modest private credit demands, the domestic bond market is feeling the pinch. Long-term interest rates in the United States are considerably higher than the tempo of the economy and inflation would seem to indicate. Financial market participants and borrowers are getting a preview of the future: a worldwide capital shortage and high real rates of interest.

What kept interest rates from soaring during the extreme savings scarcity in the mid to late 1980s was a bounteous influx of funds from foreign investors, who filled the savings gap by purchasing billions of dollars of U.S. government securities.

That is not apt to be repeated in the 1990s. Foreign investors are not as flush as they once were. At the same time, the triumph of market-oriented economic philosophies all over the world is accelerating the demand for investment capital.

The United States, as a particularly low-saving, high-borrowing country, is at a disadvantage in the worldwide competition for funds, especially when the global economy picks up. The dearth of foreign savings pools to tap mean that real intermediate and long-term interest rates in the United States will remain high for a number of years and will constrain economic growth.

The economic climate of the past year and the imprudence of adding to the deficit have distorted the use of monetary policy as almost the sole recovery tool, and its limitations have been obvious. The Federal Reserve Board has lowered short-term borrowing costs 21 times in the past 32 months, and the results to date are disappointing.

Fiscal policy, not monetary policy, works best in spurring a weak economy, particularly a service-dominated economy such as America's. Service companies generally borrow less heavily than inventory-laden manufacturing firms and thus respond less to lower borrowing costs. But when budgets are out of control, the use of counterfactual fiscal measures is severely inhibited.

The lackluster economy and a presidential election year are generating a variety of proposals to spur activity. But the federal deficit — the "D" word — is almost never cited by either political party as a major deterrent to a healthy capital market, lower long-term interest rates and economic growth.

The writer is managing director of Global Markets Economics Bankers Trust Company. He contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

Europe's failure combined with American diffidence to embolden the Serbian leadership and feed their illusion that the Western countries were once more divided by power rivalries and aggressive ambitions. ("France has abandoned Serbia because it fears losing Alsace-Lorraine," a Serbian university professor said last week, in a seriousness, to a French reporter in Sarajevo.) Thus the shock produced in Belgrade by the U.S. change of policy and the support it received throughout Western Europe.

Washington has a historical responsibility in this affair. Yugoslavia as it existed until last year was the work of a number of 19th and early 20th century reformers among the South Slav peoples themselves, who believed that their individual nations, freed from Ottoman and Hapsburg power, should be united. Their ideas were adopted by the Americans who drafted Allied policy on Balkan political frontiers after the first world war.

This informal committee of Americans was drawn from the secret policy planning group called "The Inquiry," convened in October 1917 by President Woodrow Wilson. The committee worked with maps and tables of ethnic population distribution to establish borders for the new nations. It was composed of Walter Lippmann, then a young journalist; Sidney Mezes, president of the City College of New York, a philosopher of religion; David Hunter Miller, a New York lawyer; and the head of the American Geographical Society, Isaiah Bowman. Mr. Mezes was the brother-in-law of President Wilson's foreign policy adviser, Colonel Edward House. Mr. Miller was the law partner of Colonel House's son-in-law.

They believed in national self-determination, but also thought there should be a democratic federation of the new nations to take the place of the Hapsburg and Ottoman systems. (This, in the event, was opposed by Thomas Masaryk, who wanted a fully independent Czechoslovakia.) The planners believed — as the British

historian A. J. P. Taylor has said — that "Serbs, Croats and Slovenes would merge into Yugoslavia as Prussians, Saxons and Bavarians had merged into Germany."

However, the internal frontiers of contemporary Yugoslavia were not drawn by well-meaning outsiders but by officials of Tito's revolutionary government, among them Milovan Djilas, afterward a celebrated dissident writer and political theorist. He and his colleagues did their best to draw lines in communities of hopelessly intermingled ethnic composition. Bosnia-Herzegovina being the most dramatic case of communal complexity. They understood that the permanence of their arrangements depended entirely upon tolerance and goodwill among the people who made up Yugoslavia.

But the idea of the ethnic nation has once again proven not only destructive but self-destructive. The struggle for ethnic purity and domination inevitably turns everyone else against the nation which claims the ethnic advantage.

The Serbs' enemies surround them and will never go away. Croats and Serbs, however much they hate and butcher one another, are condemned to live together. There is nothing either can do about it. Their only choice is whether to live at war or in peace.

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Why Bash Moscow for Nothing?

By Paul H. Nitze

WASHINGTON — On April 9 George Bush sent a letter to the U.S. Congress accusing the new de-facto Soviet government of violating the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972. His charge is patently false.

This disregard for truth is reckless and unworthy of the American government. It raises disturbing questions about whether the administration is needlessly bashing a former enemy for political gain in an election year.

The claim comes in the yearly report on "Soviet Noncompliance With Arms Control Agreements." Reflecting the demise of the Soviet Union, it addresses "arms control compliance cases that resulted from conditions created by actions undertaken by the former Soviet government."

The report, which covers 1991, excludes the newly independent states that were created last year. But, perhaps in a warning to the Russian government, the section on the ABM Treaty makes a point of noting that large phased-array radars probably send data to the anti-ballistic missile system surrounding and defending Moscow, enabling that system to find and lock in on incoming missiles.

Phased-array radar enables a network of detectors to track many missiles simultaneously. The report says: "The ABM Treaty is an explicit with regard to this activity. Nevertheless, this Soviet activity is clearly not consistent with the way the United States has interpreted its own compliance under the ABM Treaty. Consequently, the Soviet activity raises questions of, at least, inequitable application of treaty limitations and, potentially, of a significant violation of fundamental treaty provisions."

In fact, the Soviet "activity" cited has been known to Washington since 1970 and is fully consistent with the ABM Treaty, as the negotiating record makes clear. Furthermore, the United States did exactly the same thing when it had an operational ABM system, and it would do so again if and when it deployed anti-ballistic missiles.

Negotiating limits on large phased-array radars was one of my responsibilities as a member of the delegation to the strategic arms limitation talks that produced the ABM Treaty. Early in the negotiations I proposed a provision that would have precluded communications of data from phased-array radars to ABM systems. This proposal was dropped, not only because the Soviet Union resisted it but, more important, because the Pentagon wanted to transfer data that way.

The administration's claim that the treaty is "not explicit" is, therefore, highly disingenuous. The negotiating record is explicit: The radar-ABM link is allowed. As for the claim that it is "clearly not consistent with the way the United States has interpreted its own compliance," in 1975 the United States passed data from its phased-array radars to the ABM system at Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The claim of "inequitable application of treaty limitations" is absurd. The United States stopped transferring data to its ABM system when it shut it down — a decision that the Soviets were under no obligation to match. More important, the "inequitable application" is legally meaningless: it tries to concoct a wholly new standard for treaty compliance by implying that a party to a treaty must not only abide by its provisions but must do so the way the other party does.

Thus, the Bush administration's charge that the activity was potentially "a significant violation of fundamental treaty provisions" is outrageous, false and reckless. Why would the administration, which surely knows the truth, distort it so egregiously? Perhaps it sees beating up on an enemy that no longer exists as a cost-free way to appeal to conservatives.

Beyond that, some in the administration have an ambitious goal. For years, SDI supporters have emphasized Soviet noncompliance with the ABM Treaty as justification for U.S. abrogation of the treaty, which they seek, in order to remove all constraints on "star wars." They can use the new charge to promote their campaign.

There are times when a government must be less than truthful. For example, it can save lives by denying the existence of plans for military operations. But this is not one of those times. In 1983, Ronald Reagan properly damned the Soviet regime as one that would lie or cheat to further its cause. The Bush administration risks stooping to its former enemy's level.

The writer, a former arms negotiator, is a diplomat in residence at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1892: Intrigue in Egypt

PARIS — The Ottoman Sultan recently received a whipping from England. He sent a firman to the Khedive; England would not even allow it to be read. Any ruler who put up with these insults quietly might as well retire at once. But Abdul Hamid was not disposed to take his punishment "lying down." He made up his quarrel with the deposed and banished Khedive, Ismail Pasha. Imagine the astonishment of Ismail, who at the instigation of England and France was deposed, when all of sudden the Sultan himself stops at his door. The Sultan would be in his rights restoring him to the throne and deposing the new ruler. Is England really prepared to fight for Egypt?

1942: Gleeful Escapee

LONDON — [From our New York edition:] Anthony Haden Guest, who at four and a half is the youngest prisoner of war ever known to escape from the Germans, held a press conference today [April 22] and took a few liberties as is understandable in a young man who has spent months behind barbed wire. "Don't forget I speak English," Anthony stated at the beginning. His mother remarked that he certainly did — so consistently that in escaping from the Germans in France she had to keep him drugged for four days to prevent his drugging from giving them away. This Anthony disappeared under the table and laughed gleefully as he pinched the ankles of the women reporters.

1917: Spain's Neutrality

AMSTERDAM — In an article on Spain's attitude to the torpedoing of her ships, the *Kölnische Zeitung*, whose official inspiration is well

OPINION

Earth Summit: Evading the Population Challenge

By Jessica Mathews

WASHINGTON — As things now stand, when the Earth Summit convenes in Brazil in early June it will studiously ignore the central issue that will determine the planet's long-term livability. Silence will surround the crucial matter of how many people the planet can realistically sustain.

where they see the central issue to be the responsibility of the industrialized countries for the environmental woes that afflict the planet. So determined were they to assign blame and thereby fix financial responsibility for the needed changes that even countries with strong population control policies denied the need for such policies. Slowly, however, a fragile consensus emerged. Environmental stress, it recognized, is equally determined by how many people there are, how much each person consumes and

how much environmental damage that consumption entails. The average American, European or Japanese consumes vastly more and produces more waste and pollution than the average inhabitant of a developing country. Environmental protection therefore requires controlling both population and what has come to be called overconsumption.

"We know that the major causes of environmental degradation are economic systems that exploit and misuse nature and people," declares their position paper for the UN meeting. "We are outraged by the suggestion that women's fertility rates (euphemistically called population pressures) are to blame."

Women Don't Want Your 'Control'

By Bella Abzug

NEW YORK — Sadly, Jessica Mathews is wrong on the high and unimpaired criticism of women's role in the recent UN Conference on Environment and Development Preparatory Committee meeting in New York, which acted on a host of policy recommendations to the upcoming Earth Summit in Brazil.

facilities and oppressive cultural traditions that demean women. When the Group of 77 developing countries moved to delete all references to population and family planning in retaliation for the U.S. move to drop references to overconsumption, we were outraged. We issued a public statement attacking the use of women's concerns "as pawns in the negotiating process," and accused the governments of "playing dangerous games at the expense of women and the earth."

'Population control' terminology is as outdated as the dinosaur and unacceptable to those who believe in democratic procedures.

When we reject the concept of "control" of their bodies by governments and international institutions, with its connotations of China's forced one-baby-per-family quota system, forced sterilization of women in Latin America and of Native American women in the United States, misuse of Third World women as uninformed subjects for experimental contraceptives, and the Bush administration's relentless effort to deprive American women of free choice.

When, in the final negotiating session, the United States moved to delete all references to consumption in the North, the Group of 77 retaliated by deleting references to the urgency of slowing population growth. That opened the way for extremely aggressive and effective lobbying by the Holy See. The fate of the population language was sealed, ironically, by representatives of women.

Women's and environmentalists' short-term priorities differ, but their long-term interests are identical. Both have urgent reasons to adopt the goal that every woman on the planet who wants to space or limit the number of her children have the safe and affordable means to do so.

bers of a sex that, in rich and poor countries alike, is largely excluded from political power. We came into a familiar setting in which the official UN member state delegates were mostly men and representatives of the Holy See could vote on what happens to women's bodies while we could not.

Women believe that the "morally correct" position is to defend women's health and reproductive rights and freedom to "control" their own bodies. We seek government and economic policy changes to ensure that half the world's population are assured of their basic rights to survival, to the food, shelter, health care, information and full access to the whole range of family planning services they need to make informed decisions about family size.

What we did get, among other positive statements, was a recommendation that governments establish and strengthen "preventive and curative health facilities, which include women-centered, women-managed, safe and effective reproductive health care and affordable, accessible services, as appropriate, for the responsible planning of family services, in keeping with freedom, dignity and personally held values."

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As co-chair of the Women's Environment and Development Organization, which sponsored the Miami conference, I was present every day and long into the nights throughout the five-week PrepCom session. We sought to influence its policy recommendations by lobbying for amend-

Rising birthrates in Third World countries are directly related to poverty, lack of education and health

which was contained in the forward-looking strategies, and we still prefer it. We will continue our efforts through Rio and beyond.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Words and Pictures

Regarding "America: What's This About Dumb Kids" (Meanwhile, April 18) by Leonard Steinhorn: The writer assures us that we need not worry about America's cultural illiteracy because the images promulgated by the new computer technology are conveying "complex insights and ideas" more effectively than words.

MTV") is a gem, almost convincing, beautiful in its utter stupidity. OLIVER NETTE, Brussels.

Children raised on junk food, MTV and Nintendo games are to all intents and purposes dumb, unable to communicate effectively with anyone but their peers.

Beware of 'Macedonia'

In response to the report "Without Fanfare or Warfare, Macedonia Seeks Independence" (April 2): These so-called Macedonians, predominantly Slav peoples of different cultures, languages and religions, have never been a "nation," a distinct ethnic entity. Tito created the pseudo-republic in 1944, naming it "Macedonia" to serve his designs, with Stalin's blessing, to extend his dominance to northern Greece — the ancient Macedonia of Philip, Alexander and Aristotle, a land no less Greek than Athens, Sparta or Delphi — and thus gain access to the Aegean through the port of Thessaloniki, an old dream of the Russian czars.

Children raised on junk food, MTV and Nintendo games are to all intents and purposes dumb, unable to communicate effectively with anyone but their peers.

Estranged by this "electronic" cultural divide from their parents (themselves likely to be estranged from each other) and unable to communicate with their grandparents, they are hardly the "trendsetters" of society. Perhaps they would be better described as an evolutionary cul-de-sac.

A. M. FURSE, Liverpool.

leaders of so-called Macedonia are aspiring to achieve now.

Obviously there could be no objection by anyone to the forming of an independent state by the people of Skopje. But the world community should not tolerate a new troublemaker brandishing a stolen name as a banner for territorial claims against the one neighbor, Greece, from which it can expect full cooperation and much needed assistance to face its many and pressing problems.

CHRIS ZIOGAS, Geneva.

1942: Gleeful Escape

LONDON — From my New York office, I read with interest and pleasure your report on the escape of a group of American soldiers from a Japanese POW camp in 1942. It is a story that has been told many times before, but your report is a welcome reminder of the courage and ingenuity of these men.

Where the Taxes Go

Regarding the editorial "Borrow More to Grow" (April 2): The editorial states that bank bailouts and interest payments are not a real drain on the U.S. economy. They "do little more than swap dollars from one set of taxpayer pockets to another."

Bank bailouts, which often cover uncollectible loans to Third World countries, constitute a transfer of taxpayer dollars to those countries; interest payments are also international. Medicare and Medicaid expenditures would, it is said, constitute a substantial drain.

MARIANNE RICH, Heemstede, Netherlands.

Calcutta Will Survive the Movie

By Shashi Tharoor

WASHINGTON — Hollywood is hoping that Americans will flock to a film about a place they wouldn't ordinarily spend two hours thinking about. If Calcutta had had their way, "The City of Joy," based on Dominique Lapierre's 1986 best-seller about poverty and piety in the city, might never have been made.

Mr. Lapierre's book was burned by those he wrote about, the residents of the slum of Pilkhana. Even those who do not condone the violence and extremism of some of the protesters sympathize with their objections.

MEANWHILE

Fields" on the Cambodian border and "The Mission" in the Colombian jungle.

And do not forget the racism: In the book and in the film, the Indians are poor wretches who need ingenious whites to give them succor. Calcutta does not matter for itself; it is merely the backdrop for the beatification of an Irish nun and the self-realization of an American doctor (played by Patrick Swayze of "Dirty Dancing" fame).

The protesters were angry about the film's focus on the city's despair and degradation. The filmmakers point out, not unreasonably, that these do exist. Calcuttans dread yet another depiction of poverty, prostitution and urban squalor unrelieved by any acknowledgment that their city has for more than two centuries been India's cultural capital, a metropolis of art galleries, avant-garde theaters and overflowing bookshops, whose coffeehouse waiters speak knowledgeably of Godard and Truffaut.

Neither Mr. Lapierre nor Mr. Joffe, this argument goes, feels such empathy. It is a persuasive case, passionately argued by Calcuttan intellectuals, among them my wife. And yet I find myself deeply ambivalent. As an Indian, I do not particularly relish what Mr. Lapierre did in his book; I am reminded of Mahatma Gandhi, 60 years earlier, calling "Mother In-

dia," by the American travel writer Katharine Mayo, "a drain-inspector's report."

As a writer, though, I am troubled by my Calcuttan friends' implicit condoning of censorship; they seem to be saying to Mr. Lapierre and Mr. Joffe: This is our poverty; you cannot depict it. I cannot accept that.

They see their work as a tribute to Calcutta, a city of misery that is nonetheless a city of joy. Those who want them to turn their cameras on the other Calcutta, Mr. Joffe says, are only trying to camouflage the painful reality.

I cannot accept the notion that the suffering of the Third World's underclass is not a fit subject for First World filmmakers. I am aware that, in aiming at a Western audience, Mr. Joffe framed his story from the perspective of the outsiders, just as Candice Bergen got more footage in the film "Gandhi" than a dozen Indian figures with a greater claim to a share in the Mahatma's life.

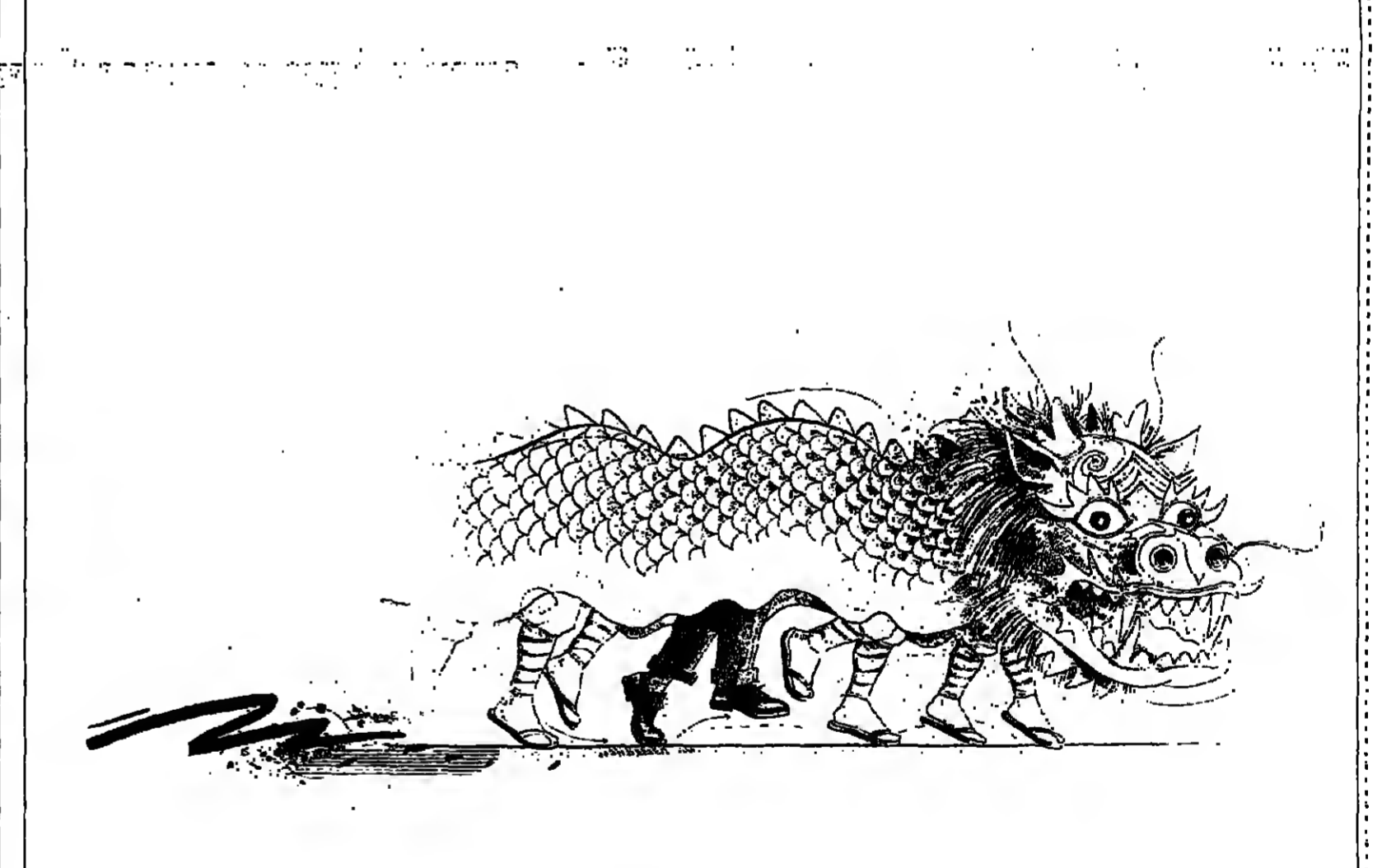
The Indian poor will be the objects of Mr. Joffe's lens, rather than its subjects: "The City of Joy" will be less their story than Patrick Swayze's. Like the Calcutta protesters, I resent that, but unlike them, I am willing to pay the price, I am willing to risk a bad, even exploitative, film in defense of the principle that Mr. Joffe has as much right to make a film about India as I have to set my next novel in America.

And just as Candice Bergen's presence helped get Gandhi's message to a vast new audience, Mr. Joffe's film can do far more to make the West's rich aware of the East's poor than the more authentic films of Third World directors, which will not garner any Academy Awards or reach a fraction of the audience that "The City of Joy" will.

The writer is author of "The Great Indian Novel." His upcoming novel, "Shiva Business," deals with the world of India's popular cinema. He contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

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CREATING THE STANDARD IN BANKING.

ABN-AMRO Bank

Why Bash Moscow for Nothing? By Paul H. Nitze. WASHINGTON — On the George Bush sent a letter to the Soviet government of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The charge is precisely the one that the American administration is making about whether the administration is really serious about the treaty. The claim comes in the report of the American Arms Control Association, which says the Soviet Union is not really serious about the treaty. The report says that the Soviet Union is not really serious about the treaty. The report says that the Soviet Union is not really serious about the treaty.

Vietnam Pledges All-Out Assistance To U.S. on MIAs

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HANOI — Vietnam's Communist Party chief told visiting U.S. senators on Wednesday that Hanoi would do everything necessary to help resolve the question of Americans still listed as missing from the Vietnam War.

"What we have here today is a clear breakthrough in the relationship," Senator Hank Brown, a Colorado Republican, said after four members of the Senate Select Committee on Prisoner of War Missing in Action Affairs met the Communist Party's general secretary, Do Muoi.

Mr. Muoi "gave us a commitment that he will provide us with the access we need to resolve this," said Senator Robert C. Smith, a New Hampshire Republican who is vice-chairman of the committee.

The U.S. government lists 2,266 servicemen as unaccounted for in Indochina — 1,655 in Vietnam, 322 in Laos, 83 in Cambodia and six in China. Some U.S. experts involved in tracking the fate of these men say privately that Washington

knows that most, if not all, are dead.

Washington says a settlement of the missing-in-action issue is a condition for normalizing diplomatic relations and lifting a trade embargo imposed in 1984.

Mr. Smith, a previous opponent of normalization, said he would not object to it if Hanoi followed through on Mr. Muoi's commitment.

Mr. Muoi asked the senators repeatedly to detail precisely what they wanted Vietnam to do so they could report back to the Senate that Hanoi was cooperating fully, the Senate committee's chairman, Senator John F. Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat, said.

Mr. Kerry quoted Mr. Muoi as saying, "We'll do anything we need to to resolve this issue." Mr. Kerry served on a gunboat in the Mekong Delta 1966-69.

The senators told Mr. Muoi that the United States wanted free access to Vietnamese military archives and personnel.

(Reuters, AP)



LAST POST FOR THE GURKHAS — Troops of the 48th Gurkha Brigade marching away for the last time from their post on the Hong Kong-Chinese border on Wednesday. The frontier guard duty is turned over to units of Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

Senator Sees Passage Of Bill Urging Some Hong Kong Autonomy

By Laurence Zuckerman
International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — A bill giving United States support to Hong Kong's right to limited autonomy after it returns to China will become law this year, the chief sponsor of the measure predicted Wednesday.

Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky, said his U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act — opposed by the Chinese government — now had broad support on Capitol Hill and would win White House endorsement once a requirement of an annual administration review is dropped.

"We are in the process of modifying that in a way that the president's support is virtually assured," Mr. McConnell told the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

According to the Joint Declaration signed by Britain and China in 1984, Hong Kong is promised "a high degree of autonomy" in all areas except diplomatic relations and defense after it is returned to China in mid-1997.

The McConnell bill aims to protect American interests and support the colony's future status by formally stating Washington's right to make bilateral agreements with Hong Kong in areas such as commerce, transportation, culture and education. It also recognizes Hong Kong's independent membership in various multilateral organizations.

The bill does not mention democracy or human rights and remains scrupulously within the confines of the Joint Declaration signed by Beijing, New Delhi, Chinese officials accuse Washington of meddling in a matter they insist is of sole concern to London and Beijing.

The White House, which has been under attack for being too soft on China, waited months before it would even comment on the proposed legislation.

At a Senate hearing this month, however, Richard P. Solomon, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, generally supported the bill.

EUROPEAN TOPICS

Freddie the Dolphin May Have Drowned

Freddie, a bottlenose dolphin who made headlines last year when he was involved in a sex abuse court case, may have drowned in a fishing net, it was reported Wednesday in London.

Freddie disappeared from his home in Amble Harbor in northeast England six weeks ago.

Three weeks later, fishermen found a drowning dolphin entangled in their nets. It was probably Freddie, according to published accounts of a radio exchange between two fishing trawlers that had been overheard.

"You've got Freddie the dolphin," one trawlerman warned the other. "If you get that back there'll be a lynching."

In his five years in Amble Harbor, Freddie was the magnet for large numbers of tourists who came to swim alongside the friendly creature. One fan was tried in court for indecent assault

after people on a pleasure boat said they saw him fondling the dolphin's penis. The man was cleared after an expert testified that male dolphins often extend their penises to swimmers the way a human extends an arm.

The reports are likely to bolster environmentalist protests against the use of fine-meshed nylon fishing nets that scoop up fish and anything else in their way.

Netherlands to Tackle Growing Petty Crime

The Dutch Justice Ministry has launched a national campaign to publicize stiff penalties for people purchasing stolen goods, according to a ministry spokesman.

The campaign is meant to make it more difficult for thieves to sell their goods by limiting the number of clients. It will feature television advertisements, leaflets and posters warning that "the buyer of the loot won't get away with it."

As of May, receiving, possessing or selling stolen goods will carry a minimum fine of 400 guilders (\$215) and a maximum of four years' imprisonment.

Police figures show that about 400,000 thefts are registered each year. But the most common one,

the theft of bicycles, often goes unreported. Nearly a million bicycles are estimated stolen each year in the country of 15 million inhabitants and 12 million bicycles. Victims of bike thefts often "buy a stolen replacement," a spokesman for the national Cycling Association said.

A bicycle thief risks about a week in prison, but up to now, the buyer of a stolen bike remained free. The new measures will give local authorities more power to break through this vicious circle, the ministry spokesman said.

Around Europe

A repatta of 82 sailing ships from 12 countries set out for America this week from Genoa, the home port of Christopher Columbus, to mark the 500th anniversary of the explorer's maiden voyage to the New World. The sailing ships "will realize symbolically the dream of the great Genoese navigator of reaching America by setting sail from his own city," the Milan daily Corriere della Sera said. First port of call will be Cadiz, in Spain, the country that sponsored the adventure.

Russia is "falling far behind the civilized world in traffic safety," according to Vladimir Fyodorov,

head of the Russian Interior Ministry's traffic police department. Sixteen out of every 100 people injured in car crashes die, he said, adding that the figure is several times higher than the 2 to 7 percent average for the rest of the world. He attributed the high death rate on poor road conditions, an inadequate ambulance service and lack of modern communications. "Accident reports in the West usually show large numbers of crashes with very few people killed," he said. "With us, it's the other way round."

A lovesick albatross that has been searching for a female mate in the wrong place for the last 20 years has once again returned to the Herma Ness cliffs on the northern tip of the Shetland Islands. The black-browed bird, with a 7-foot (2-meter) wingspan, spends his time isolated off the northern coast of Scotland, obviously unaware that the nearest breeding colonies are 8,000 miles (12,875 kilometers) away on the Falkland Islands. Albert, as the residents call him, has appeared at Herma Ness almost every spring since 1972.



EXPRESSIVE EXPO '92 — A Maori tribesman performing a war dance at the New Zealand pavilion in Seville.

Russia Offers to Sell Atom Prowess to Seoul

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — Russia has offered to sell South Korea advanced nuclear technology, including ways to extend the life of nuclear power plants, a leading Russian nuclear expert said Wednesday.

"We can provide many advanced technologies for lower fees than the Western countries," said the nuclear expert, Nikolai N. Stepanov, president of the Russian Nuclear Society, speaking at a news conference.

Mr. Stepanov was in Seoul as a guest speaker at the seventh annual meeting of the Korea Atomic Industrial Forum and the Korea Nuclear Society.

He also met with South Korean officials. Mr. Stepanov said that he offered to sell technology or conduct joint research with South Korea on certain projects, including extension of the life of nuclear power plants, and that South Korean officials had responded favorably.

"We can expect to make substantial achievements before long," Mr. Stepanov said. His remarks in Russian were translated into Korean by an interpreter.

South Korea relies heavily on nuclear power, obtaining nearly 30 percent of its electricity from nuclear power plants. Two more plants are under construction and several more are to be added by the year 2000.

No Russian technology has been used in any Korean plants so far. Eight used American technology and the other three French and Canadian technology.

But now South Korea is increasingly interested in Russian technology, which it considers competitive in both quality and price. South Korea recently decided to use Russian enriched uranium as fuel for its plants.

In a separate development, it was announced that the director of International Atomic Energy Agency would visit North Korea next month to inspect nuclear sites there.

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Pretender to Czar's Throne Dies in Miami at 74

New York Times Service

Vladimir Kirillovich Romanov, pretender to the extinct throne of Imperial Russia, died during a news conference in Miami on Tuesday. He was 74 years old.

Mr. Romanov, a grand duke and direct descendant of Czar Alexander II, who ruled from 1855 to 1881, was in Miami for a speech he was to give Wednesday before a forum of civic and business leaders. He was at a bank, being interviewed by Spanish-language reporters, when he fell unconscious.

Mr. Romanov was pronounced dead at Mercy Hospital. A hospital spokeswoman could not provide a cause of death.

His father was Kirill Vladimiro-

ovich Romanov, a second cousin of the last Czar, Nicholas II, who abdicated during the revolution. Mr. Romanov succeeded as head of the Romanov family in exile and as pretender when his father died in 1938.

He was born in Finland when it was part of the Czarist empire, but had lived in Brittany since the Romanovs went into exile after the revolution.

Mr. Romanov is survived by his wife of 44 years, Leonida, Bagra-tion, of the former royal family of Georgia; his daughter Maria, a 38-year-old Oxford graduate who lives in Madrid, and his grandson George, 11, of Madrid.

Carlos Assumpcao, 63, president of Macao's Legislative Assembly, died in a Hong Kong hospital on Monday at age 63. He had been treated for pulmonary fibrosis.

Vaino Linna, 71, author of "The Unknown Soldier," a novel dealing with Finland's war with the Soviet Union, died Tuesday in Helsinki.

Kang Keqing, 81, widow of marshal Chu Teh and one of the few women who went on the Chinese Communists' Long March in 1934, died Wednesday in Beijing. She was 81.

Edward F. Fry, 56, an art historian, a curator and a critic who specialized in 20th-century art, died Friday of a heart attack at his home in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania.



Romanov, born in Finland, spent most of his life in France.

Bonn Distributes Israeli Article Defending Kohl

Reuters

BONN — The German government, apparently still smarting from Jewish criticism of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, on Wednesday distributed an Israeli press article defending him against the World Jewish Congress.

The Jerusalem Post article, written by the Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal and two other prominent Jews, attacked the World Jewish Congress for criticizing Mr. Kohl last month after he met President

Kurt Waldheim of Austria in Munich.

The Federal Press Office, the agency that took the rare step of translating and distributing the article, said it wanted only to provide background material on an important issue.

But other government officials, who asked not to be named, said that Mr. Kohl wanted it publicized to support his position in the heated exchange with the World Jewish Congress.

The Congress led Jewish groups in accusing Mr. Kohl of pandering to anti-Semitic voters by meeting Mr. Waldheim on March 28, a week before two state polls in which rightist parties made unexpectedly strong gains.

Visibly angered, the chancellor snapped to reporters at the time: "It is up to me as chancellor to decide whom I meet here in Munich," adding "I don't need any advice."

Although described as informal, the meeting was the first time that Mr. Waldheim had been received by a Western leader since being shunned over accusations about his wartime role in the Balkans.

Mr. Waldheim denies that as a German Army lieutenant he was involved in interrogating Allied prisoners of war and in the deaths of villagers.

The article in The Jerusalem Post of April 16 said: "Democratic Germany is not the Third Reich, and Helmut Kohl is certainly no Adolf Hitler."

"Edgar Bronfman, the president

of the World Jewish Congress, sat in a glass house and threw stones at the chancellor.

"Did Kohl want to swerve further to the right than the right-wing forces in Germany to win votes in two important elections? Not at all.

"Right-wing groups in Germany have never been very interested in the Waldheim controversy and Kohl, as a professional politician, knew that."

The article was written by Mr. Wiesenthal, the British publisher Lord George Weidenfeld and Michael Wolfson, an Israeli-born historian who lives in Germany.

It also supported Mr. Kohl's assertion that the World Jewish Congress had actively opposed German unification and "maintained close ties with Communist leaders in the former East Germany."

"Considering the interests of the Jews, we believe the time has come to inform the public about the activities of people who claim to speak in the name of all Jews," it concluded.

Big Apple Predicts a Shiny Budget

New York Times

NEW YORK (NYT) — New York City will end this fiscal year with a substantial surplus and will not have to borrow to help balance next year's budget, according to city officials.

The news represented a major turnaround from the budget trauma that has dominated the first half of Mayor David N. Dinkins' term. Aides said the surplus could

total more than \$200 million by the end of the fiscal year June 30.

The surplus is a result of a number of factors, including stabilizing city tax revenues, some deep spending cuts, money from an untapped \$150 million general reserve fund, a recalculation of the interest that will be owed on city bonds and cuts in state aid that were less deep than expected.

U.S. Panel Backs New Drug For AIDS Along With AZT

New York Times Service

BETHESDA, Maryland — An advisory committee to the Food and Drug Administration has recommended that a new AIDS drug be given a conditional approval.

The committee recommended Tuesday that DDC, or didanosine, be marketed for use in combination with another drug, AZT, or zidovudine, which was the first drug approved for the treatment of AIDS.

It made the decision on the basis of preliminary data and specified that the drug be removed from the market if interim data from continuing studies failed to uphold the hints of benefit.

But the committee decided not to recommend approval of DDC as a treatment by itself, even for patients who could not take AZT.

Under an experimental "expanded access program," DDC has been available without charge to patients who could not tolerate other AIDS treatments.

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Spill in Italy

No Middle Ground As Abortion Case Opens in U.S. Court

By Linda Greenhouse
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — If there is a middle ground on abortion, it is hardly in evidence in arguments presented to the Supreme Court on Wednesday in a Pennsylvania case that could determine the future of the constitutional right to abortion.

Broad statements of philosophy and policy marked an hour-long session that at times appeared to have as much to do with the political world beyond the court as with the process of constitutional decision-making within it.

In contrast to the narrowly tailored arguments usually heard at the court, Kathryn Kolbert, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, offered the nine justices an all-or-nothing analysis of why they should strike down a Pennsylvania law that restricts, but does not prohibit, abortion.

Ms. Kolbert said that upholding any of the restrictions, including a 24-hour waiting period and a requirement that wives notify husbands of a planned abortion, would be the equivalent of overruling Roe v. Wade, the 1973 decision that declared abortion to be a fundamental constitutional right.

With the likelihood remote that the justices will, in fact, heed their request to reaffirm Roe v. Wade, the abortion-rights lawyers in the case have underscored the stakes for an election-year outcome beyond the court.

A federal appeals court in Philadelphia struck down the husband-notification provision last fall, but the abortion-rights side found that ruling unavailing because the appellate judges simultaneously ruled that abortion was no longer a fundamental right and could be the subject of a new degree of state regulation.

"Never before has the court bestowed such a burden on a fundamental right that has been part of the legal rights and expectations of literally millions of Americans for nearly two decades," Ms. Kolbert said.

The administration adhered to the standard that abortion is not a fundamental right, but it first presented that argument three years ago, Solicitor General Kenneth W. Starr, appearing with the Pennsylvania attorney general, Ernest D. Preate Jr., in support of the state's law, told the justices that Roe v. Wade was not entitled to respect as precedent and should be overruled.

Referring at one point to a fetus as a "potential citizen," Mr. Starr said that the government has a "compelling interest" in protecting fetal life throughout pregnancy.

Referring at one point to a fetus as a "potential citizen," Mr. Starr said that the government has a "compelling interest" in protecting fetal life throughout pregnancy.

In Roe v. Wade, the court held that the state's interest in fetal life becomes compelling only at the point of viability — roughly, the last three months of pregnancy, when a fetus could survive outside the uterus.

Questioning Animated
The Associated Press reported earlier from Washington: Questioning from the justices was occasionally animated, but not as aggressive as it often has been in cases in which the court was closely divided.

Ms. Kolbert, first to stand at the lectern, was allowed to speak for seven minutes before Justice Sandra Day O'Connor interrupted to ask whether she planned to discuss the specific terms of the state law.

"You're arguing the case as if what is before us is Roe v. Wade," Justice O'Connor said.

Ms. Kolbert spoke of "the rights of bodily integrity" and the "genesis of Roe and the constitution in that it fully protects the rights of fundamental importance."

She told the court that "to abandon heightened review is to overrule Roe."

Ms. Kolbert resisted requests to discuss the terms of the Pennsylvania law, choosing instead to speak of what she said was the central issue — "the power of the government to force a woman to continue her pregnancy against her will."

"Pennsylvania's onerous restrictions must fall," she contended. "Women might again be forced to the back alleys for their health care."



A QUIET BIRTHDAY FOR LENIN — On the 122d anniversary of the birth of Lenin, a group of men waited in Moscow's Red Square to pay respects on the tomb of the founder of the former Soviet state. It was the first time that Lenin's birthday was not officially recognized, although there were unofficial ceremonies by small groups of sympathizers in Moscow and other cities.

GEORGIA: Days of Wine and Sadness, Too, as Royal Family Returns

(Continued from page 1)

figure in émigré activities, died of a heart attack.

Aeroflot has never been efficient, comfortable or even nominally reliable. But now it is near collapse, pressed on one end by high prices and budget cuts ordered by its hub in Moscow and, on the other, by the newly independent republics, each of which wants its own fair share of Aeroflot's fleet.

The flight to Tbilisi was under the command of Georgian Aviation, an arm of Aeroflot that existed under separate administration even when the Soviet Union was still intact.

Now, Georgia is an independent country — it even refused to join the new Commonwealth of Independent States — and Georgian Aviation is in the process of resurrecting itself as an independent airline, Orbi.

Caught between two systems, neither of them fully operational, Georgian Aviation is awash in problems. One is a fuel shortage. For various reasons, all of them connected to the collapse of the former Soviet Union, Tbilisi does not have enough fuel to keep its aircraft flying.

For a time, Moscow-Tbilisi flights were sharply reduced. Then, a solution was found, allowing planes on their way to and from Tbilisi to refuel in Sochi, a resort town on the Black Sea coast inside Russia, 400 kilometers (250 miles) from Tbilisi, which, as Georgians are quick to point out, was once part of the Georgian kingdom.

Another problem is spare parts, as became apparent after the right front tire on the Moscow-Tbilisi flight burst while landing at Sochi.

Officials declared they had no spares, so the plane was held until morning, when the next flight from Tbilisi was due to arrive, with a tire.

The Georgian passengers were eager to help the members of the Bagrationi family return to their homeland. And they were skeptical about the statement that there was no spare available. So they tried to negotiate the purchase of one.

They failed, but their skepticism was justified. The next day — after some passengers spent the night slumped in armchairs in the dirty airport waiting room while others

found hotels in Sochi, several kilometers away, that charged one quarter of an average monthly pension — it was discovered that the airport, which once had a reserve of a dozen or more spare tires, did have one in stock.

But as the airport administrator was to explain to an angry delegation of passengers, Sochi, which is already owed tens of millions of rubles by Tbilisi, was not about to give Georgia its last tire, leaving itself with none for the next Russian aircraft that needs one.

By this time, the plane from Tbilisi, delayed three hours, had landed with a spare. On dismantling the wheel, however, the ground crew discovered that the brakes had seized up, leading to the announcement of another five-hour delay and an eruption on the part of the bedraggled passengers.

The meeting in the administrator's office — his secretary unable to hold the door any longer — was fraught with emotion, and politics. Some of the Georgian passengers began to accuse the Russians of playing imperialist games.

"We are not your hostages!" a young man shouted. When another Georgian, who identified himself as a deputy minister, accused the airport of deliberately holding up the flight for money, the airport administrator lost his temper.

"Look here," he said, his voice all flustered. "There may be no order in the country — if there is a country — but here, we maintain some kind of order."

Then looking at his watch and expressing concern that the ground crew might go home at 5 P.M. without finishing the job, he drove off for a personal inspection of the repairs.

The plane finally took off that night at 9:26 hours after it was supposed to have arrived in Tbilisi.

Of the three family members, only Kevnan Bagrationi had ever been to the Soviet Union before. Her mother, a Frenchwoman who speaks neither Russian nor Georgian, sat in dignified calm throughout the ordeal, asking only occasionally in a mild way if such confusion was typical.

Sewer Gas Blasts Kill At Least 100 in Mexico

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
GUADALAJARA, Mexico — Explosions from gas in the sewage system wrecked buildings over several blocks of the city Wednesday, killing at least 100 people and injuring about 600, the Mexican Red Cross said.

Hospitals were filled with injured people after at least nine blasts shook the eastern sector of Mexico's second-largest metropolis, a city of about 3 million residents.

A Red Cross spokesman said as many as 150,000 people were believed to live in the densely populated areas surrounding about 12 square blocks, where the worst explosions occurred.

Governor Guillermo Cosío Vidaurri ordered the dead to be taken to two sports stadiums.

A statement by Pemex, Mexico's state oil monopoly, said the gas came from a privately owned cooking oil factory that leaked into the sewage system. The Pemex spokesman identified the gas as hexane, a volatile liquid paraffin.

Mexican television showed crumbled buildings and buried cars from the neighborhood on Guadalajara's eastern edge. In one shot, a child was seen wheeling his bicycle across rubble from collapsed buildings that was several feet deep. A pall of dust rose from the debris.

Police and rescue workers frantically dug through the wreckage of collapsed buildings.

Guadalajara, perhaps the most studied of Mexico's largest cities, has a large community of U.S. retirees as well as American medical students. The area of nearby Lake Chapala also attracted many Americans, until pollution made it less attractive.

A 1984 explosion and fire at a government oil tank farm in San Juan Ihuatpec, a northern Mexico City residential area, killed more than 500 people.

An oil pipeline explosion in 1988 in eastern Mexico killed 11 people and injured 14.

KABUL: Heavily Armed Rebel Forces Near the Edges of Afghan Capital

(Continued from page 1)

would not permit Mr. Hekmatyar to invade Kabul.

"Hekmatyar is a warmonger," said Mr. Masoud. "If Hekmatyar tries to come by fighting, we are going to stop him. I say to you, if they had the power to come into Kabul, they would have come in already."

Mr. Masoud repeatedly stressed his alliances with other Islamic rebels and militias, and particularly with the forces of General Dostum, the leader of a shura, or council, of military commanders, of both Islamic guerrillas and former government forces, in the north.

"We are now together," he said. "We are members of a grand council, and we have a condition. Mr. Masoud said that he had tried to contact Mr. Hekmatyar, but the radio would not reach."

Mr. Hekmatyar, who has consistently been the most severe in interpretation of Islam, has refused to participate in talks with either Mr. Sevan or with other rebel leaders.

Mr. Sevan, acutely aware that his room for maneuver was rapidly shrinking — in part at least because he continues to provide refuge to General Najibullah, whom every rebel group wants placed on trial — he was in no position to impose any settlement.

"It's up to them," he said. "No one at the United Nations is coming up with formulas. If it is the wish of Afghanistan to have a mujahidin government, then that is their own choice."

Mr. Masoud made it clear, however, that the former president would never be permitted to leave Afghanistan, even in the protective custody of the United Nations.

"His head," Mr. Masoud declared, "belongs to the people of Afghanistan to decide."

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BOSNIA: Muslims and Serbs Battle in the Streets for Control of Sarajevo

(Continued from page 1)

hospital with patients as targets is not encouraging.

"I could not make a recommendation for the visit if their security is at risk," he said.

Germany on Wednesday vowed that the "greatest possible international pressure" would be applied against Serbia to end the bloodshed in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The United States and Germany have been in close contact on possible international penalties against Serbia, which the two governments blame for the violence in Bosnia.

Force," he said, referring to struggles in Bosnia and Croatia.

At the Bosnia hotel in suburban Ilidza, near Sarajevo, its plate glass windows shattered by bullets, the chatter of gunfire and thuds of exploding grenades and mortar shells could be heard all morning.

Serbs fired shoulder-launched anti-tank rockets at Ilidza's Topola hotel, where Muslim snipers were holed up, and thick black smoke billowed from the building.

A white UN armored personnel carrier drove into the area amid the fighting, apparently continuing efforts to arrange a cease-fire.

Shooting resumed in central Sarajevo at noon Wednesday, but heavy firing continued in Ilidza and in the nearby villages of Sokolovic and Butmir until late afternoon. Serb fighters appeared in control of several strategically located buildings in the suburb. Muslims attacked them with mortars.

The fighters on both sides in Sarajevo ignored emotional pleas for a truce Tuesday from Muslim and Serb civilian leaders.

Fighting also was reported in northern and western Bosnia and near the border with Croatia.

More than 200 people have died in Bosnia since the republic's Muslim and Croat majority approved independence in a Feb. 19 referendum that was boycotted by Serbs. Early reports on Wednesday's fighting said at least one person had died and 10 were wounded.

Reporter Is Freed in Malawi

HARARE — Simon Mhone, a part-time Reuters correspondent in Malawi, has been released after nearly four months in detention, diplomatic sources said Wednesday. The Malawi government gave no reason for his detention and never announced any charges against him. The sources said he had been freed on April 13 and that his family reported that he was well.

Witnesses and reporters at the scene said the series of explosions blew up a ditch about 10 blocks long, 6 meters deep and 3 meters wide.

The federal government declared a national emergency and began moving field hospitals, rescue workers, medical helicopters and other emergency equipment into the area.

The army was called to take charge of the situation. About 700 workers were combing the rubble for more victims.

"The spectacle in the streets affected makes it look as if we have been dumbed," a radio reporter said from the scene.

As he spoke, another explosion rocked the area.

Police and rescue workers frantically dug through the crumbled wreckage of collapsed buildings.

The police said streets were blown open, trapping at least 50 cars in the rubble.

José Ponce, a lieutenant in Guadalajara's fire department, said the blasts were concentrated in the eastern area of the city.

"We heard several explosions, some of them very strong," Mr. Ponce said in a telephone interview. His office is a little more than a mile from the explosion area.

The newspaper Excelsior said the chief of fire fighters in Guadalajara attributed the explosions to "hundreds of liters of gasoline" in the Reforma area of the city.

Fighters from Croatia reportedly changed their insignia before they entered the fray in Herzegovina to that of a newly formed territorial defense unit of Bosnia and Herzegovina, thus camouflaging their origin.

Ms. Tutwiler said U.S. concerns about the latest fighting had been conveyed to Croatian authorities in Zagreb and Serbian authorities in Belgrade.

GATT: Subsidy Dispute Persists

(Continued from page 1)

commerce, increasingly dominated by transnational corporations with no firm anchor in a single nation, has changed substantially in recent years. There has been a dramatic expansion in cross-border investment, trade in services and access to intellectual property such as computer software.

Existing trade obstacles stand as a roadblock to economic growth, according to a newly released study by two economists at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Ian Goldin and Dominique van der Mensbrugghe. They estimated that approval of the partial liberalization embodied in the latest proposal by Arthur Dunkel, director-general of GATT, would yield benefits of more than \$195 billion. Roughly half of the gains would be reaped by developing countries in the Third World and in the old Soviet empire, far outstripping official aid.

The fate of the current Uruguay Round of GATT talks also has wider consequences for the major powers. Success would extend far beyond trade and tariffs because it would set a positive tone for the future of Europe's relations with the United States. It would also help bring Japan out of its age-old isolation by forcing it to open its market to rice imports.

Failure threatens to give prominence to such testy subsidies as soybeans, rice and aircraft parts at the expense of mutual cooperation on Western security and support for the new democracies that have emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The GATT talks, known as the Uruguay Round because they were launched there in 1986, are not likely to collapse immediately. But the continuing stalemate raises the prospects that governments will increasingly resort to private bilateral trade deals and try to fend off growing competition with a wide array of targeted subsidies.

Moreover, if negotiations drag on past the U.S. presidential election in November, a GATT agreement could fall victim to shifting political tides in the United States. Many on Capitol Hill are disillusioned by the lack of visible progress. Congressional authority for the White House to continue the talks, already extended once, expires in June 1993, and lawmakers are unlikely to extend it again.

"Unfortunately, the promise of the Uruguay Round has not been realized," Senator Max Baucus, the Montana Democrat who is chairman of the Senate's international trade subcommittee, said recently. "Enough is enough. It is time for a new direction."

The talks have brought together 108 nations in a bid to extend international trade rules to such services as banking, transportation, telecommunications and insurance. Major industrial nations are also trying to expand the reach of their standards governing patents, copyrights and other forms of intellectual property.

Meanwhile, developing countries in such regions as Latin America and Asia, which have long sought to shelter their domestic economies from international competition, are seeking to open their markets to outsiders. But in return for providing rich countries access to their markets, poorer nations are demanding a reduction in farm protectionism among the industrial powers.

The IMF predicted there would be continued weak growth in Europe, as high German interest rates weighed on neighboring economies. The report urged Germany to move more aggressively to reduce its budget deficit, caused largely by efforts to help Eastern Germany.

The report said the East European economy was beginning to bottom out, but added that the former Soviet Union would see further declines in output.

For Eastern Europe, the report projected a 1 percent drop in output this year, but growth of 3.7 percent next year. That follows a plunge in production of 16.6 percent last year.

For the former Soviet Union, the report saw a decline in production of 17.5 percent this year, following a plunge of 17 percent last year. The report also forecast inflation of 1,000 percent in the former Soviet Union this year.

According to the IMF, developing countries as a group, excluding Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, will grow by 6.7 percent this year, compared with 3.3 percent last year.

IMF: Expect Soft Growth Until '93

(Continued from page 1)

because the slump in construction and reductions in military spending were disrupting the economy.

The report forecast Japan's economy to grow by 3.2 percent from fourth quarter to fourth quarter, the same as the year before, and to rise to 3.9 percent next year.

It said the Japanese economy had slowed recently because growth in fixed investment fell to 3.5 percent this year, compared with more than 10 percent a year in the late 1980s. The report noted that industrial output declined in the first two months of this year, but added that a pickup in government spending would help spur the economy.

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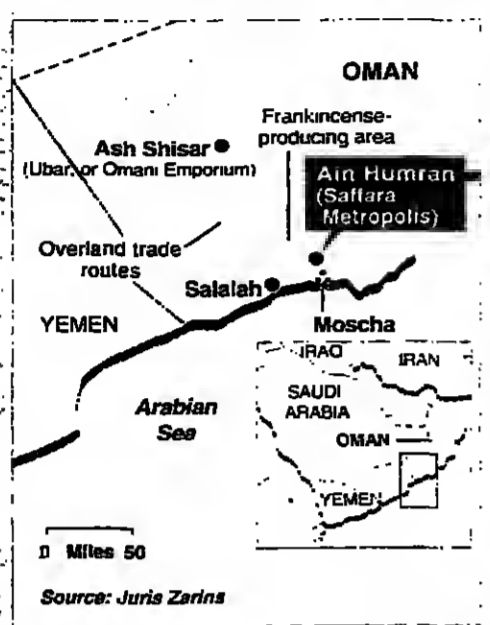
HEALTH/SCIENCE

The Frankincense Trade: New Entrepôt Unearthed

Site, Saffara Metropolis, Is Near the Omani Coast

By John Noble Wilford
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The archaeologists who recently announced the discovery of the legendary lost city of Ubar in the Arabian Peninsula have found the remains of another major emporium in the ancient frankincense trade: the ruins of an even larger city near the coast of the Indian Ocean.



caravan routes to Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean and by ships across the sea to India. The new find, at the base of the Qara Mountains, is at a site with the modern name of Ain Humran.

With its discovery, archaeologists now think they know three principal sites engaged in shipping frankincense: Saffara Metropolis, at the mountains where the aromatic resin is grown; Ubar, or Omanum Emporium on Ptolemaic maps, across the mountains on the edge of the Empty Quarter and so the nexus for the trans-desert trade, and finally, the ancient seaport of Moscha, discovered and excavated in the 1950s.

Announcing the find Monday, Dr. Juris Zarins, chief archaeologist of an American-British-Omani expedition, said preliminary excavations at Saffara Metropolis produced pottery and other artifacts indicating that it was occupied at the same time as Ubar, which was settled some 5,000 years ago and was a bustling caravan center as early as 2000 B.C.

looked at before in exploring the frankincense trade," he said.

Dr. Zarins, a professor of anthropology at Southwest Missouri State University, said the towers, interior walls and other architecture at the new site were virtually identical to those at Ubar.

The central part of the city stood stark and unburied on the top of a hill. Its crumbling walls encompassed an area about 100 by 115 meters (300 by 350 feet).

Dr. Barri Jones of the University of Manchester in England, examining ancient maps, made the connection between these ruins and Saffara Metropolis, which in Greek means the main city of Dhofar, another name for the southern region of Oman.

The excavations, which Dr. Zarins described in an interview by telephone from his campus office, uncovered samples of the incense and statuettes from India, the principal overseas market for the trade.

Dr. Zarins is a member of the Trans-Arabia Expedition, led by Nicholas Clapp, a Los Angeles movie-maker, and George R. Hedges, a Los Angeles lawyer with a background in archaeology. Another organizer was Sir Ranulph Fiennes, a British explorer with wide experience in Oman.

After a decade of study and preparation, the expedition struck pay dirt last fall when, guided by detailed remote-sensing surveys by satellite and the space shuttle, its members followed ancient caravan tracks to a water well now known as Ash Shisar.

The photographic and radar surveys had been analyzed by remote-sensing specialists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

There near the well, buried in the sand, were the mud-brick walls and towers of an ancient city. Comparing its location with Ptolemaic maps, the explorers concluded this was none other than the lost city of Ubar, famous in the Koran and other literature as a place of fabulous wealth and corruption.

It supposedly came to a sudden collapse toward the end of the Roman period, sinking out of sight. T.E. Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia, called Ubar "the Atlantis of Arabia."

Since Ubar's discovery was announced in February, Dr. Zarins continued digging at the site and said he was increasingly certain that Ubar's walls and towers were probably built more than 2,000 years ago, at the beginning of the city's greatest prosperity.

He said the ruins of one more tower had been discovered, bringing the number of towers to nine.

THE archaeologist reported that Ubar appeared to have been a much more extensive city than once thought. Beyond the walls of its central city, measuring about 50 by 60 meters, were buried remains marking about 20 other occupation sites, some as far away as 4 kilometers. These were presumably camping areas for the caravans and others who came to enrich and enjoy themselves at Ubar.

Further digging led to evidence that people had been living at the Ubar site for at least 5,000 years. Its peak occupation, though, was in the Roman period of the first, second and third centuries after Christ.

The city's fortunes seemed to decline with the onset of the empire. Geologists on the expedition suggested that an earthquake could have caused the center of the city to collapse into the limestone caverns that underlay the region.

The discovery of the ruins at Ain Humran was made after a systematic ground reconnaissance, assisted by satellite photography. A five-year plan has been developed for more intensive exploration at the sites and for expanding the search into neighboring Yemen.

Much of Ubar remains to be excavated. Dr. Zarins said he wanted to gather more evidence documenting his thesis that the people who live in the Qara Mountains today are descendants of the ancient people known as Ad. The discoveries at Ain Humran, he said, provide stronger evidence that the people of Ad were the ones who controlled the thriving incense trade.



Tapping the Secrets of Sleeping Bears

By Elisabeth Rosenthal
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — This time each year, bears are lumbering out of their dens after a long deep sleep that rivals that of Rip Van Winkle. For up to five months, bears do not eat, drink, defecate or urinate; they have no nutrition, no waste disposal and yet they emerge each spring groggy but healthy.

Hibernating bears are able to defy some basic rules of mammalian physiology, research has shown. Five months of inactivity would lead to disastrous bone thinning in humans, but leaves bear bones unharmed. Although bears do not move their large muscles for more than 100 days, they actually increase their lean body mass in the den. And while bears do not urinate during their months of hibernation, their bodies show no buildup of urea, a toxic waste product of protein metabolism normally eliminated by the kidneys.

A group of scientists studying the internal chemistry of hibernating bears say they have identified the secret of their survival: recycling. Hibernating bears seem to be able to make use of bone degradation products to build new bone and urinary wastes to make protein. The researchers hope to use chemicals from the bear to treat humans suffering from osteoporosis, in which the bones waste away, and from kidney failure, in which life-threatening urinary toxins accumulate.

Working with hibernating bears you get only one chance each year to see what's happening, but we're slowly putting it all together," said Dr. Ralph A. Nelson, research director of the Carle Foundation in Urbana, Illinois, who has studied bear physiology for two decades. "If we could duplicate what the bear does to stimulate

new bone growth we might be able to treat bone loss in humans, and if we could increase the recycling of urea in humans with kidney failure, we could prevent the need for dialysis," he said.

Most animals that sleep through the winter drop their body temperature drastically and dramatically cut nutritional needs during hibernation; these so-called deep hibernators — like squirrels and chipmunks — spend winter limp and defenseless.

But bears lower their body temperature only slightly and continue to burn about 4,000 calories a day, resulting in a Zen-like state of watchful rest. Bears can rise in response to intruders at a moment's notice and even carry and nurse their young. "Hibernation is an amazing adaptation to climate," said Dr. Christopher Servheen of the University of Montana in Missoula. "Ninety percent of a bear's diet is plants, which they can't get in the winter in much of North America, so they den."

Most bears in temperate climates hibernate from late fall through late March or early April. Dr. Servheen said, although bears in Florida or Arizona may not, since they can find food through the winter. Much of what is known about bear biochemistry has come from the study of three black bears — U.P., Caruso and Amozno — who were taken in by Dr. Nelson almost 20 years ago after they were captured as public nuisances in Wisconsin and Michigan. Dr. Nelson, a medical doctor, has been studying them since.

He had long suspected that sleeping bears had a unique mechanism for regulating calcium, the main mineral in bone. Based on blood samples collected from anesthetized bears before, during and after hibernation, he knew that the amount of calcium in their blood was fairly constant. It was a surprising finding since the bone of other mammals, including hu-

mans, inevitably thins when it does not carry weight for long periods, spilling calcium into the blood.

This phenomenon, known as disuse osteoporosis, is thought to result from an imbalance between bone production by cells called osteoblasts and bone destruction by another group of bone cells called osteoclasts.

During long periods of intense exercise, bone formation outpaces destruction and bone mass increases. But in periods of prolonged rest, such as when a leg is in a cast, the bone building osteoblasts slow down or even cease to function, and the bone becomes brittle.

Deep hibernators also lose bone as they lie dormant. The calcium that leaches into the blood as the bone degrades is eliminated in the urine; even deep hibernators arouse occasionally to relieve themselves. But what about the bear that cannot urinate to protect itself against calcium buildup in the blood? And how can it maintain a skeleton that must support hundreds of pounds upon awakening in the spring?

SEVERAL years ago, Dr. Timothy Floyd, an orthopedist working with Dr. Nelson, performed bone biopsies on the three captive bears at various times in the hibernation cycle. The bone specimens revealed that bears did not lose any bone mass despite months of rest, and even in hibernation their osteoblasts continued to lay down new bone at a rate equal to that found during the periods of greater physical activity. The calcium spilled into the blood from one part of the skeleton had apparently been used to build new bone in another.

The researchers say they are now hot on the trail of a chemical in hibernating bear blood that they think may promote new bone growth; they will not discuss the

details since they hope to patent their work. If such a compound also worked in humans, it could have a vast market among the millions of older people.

The bear's ability to recycle virtually all the urea it produces is also unique among mammals. If a human did not urinate for several days, he would develop high levels of urea in the blood and die. But blood urea levels in bears, instead of rising, actually fall. Experiments by Dr. Nelson and his colleagues over the past decade have helped to solve this riddle.

By inserting catheters into the bladders of bears during hibernation, they found that the animals were making small amounts of urine all winter long. But somehow, instead of accumulating in the bladder, the urine and the nitrogen containing urea were reabsorbed across the bladder wall.

To trace the fate of urea that had disappeared from the bladder, the researchers synthesized urea containing radioactive molecules and injected them into hibernating bears. To their surprise, the radioactive urea disappeared and the radioactivity began turning up in various proteins, including albumin, which helps maintain blood volume, and neurotransmitters.

The hibernating bears had apparently taken apart the urea and used its components to make amino acids; the building blocks of proteins. The energy for this astounding recycling program is provided by the bear's fat stores. Researchers believe that bears are probably the only animal that can split urea in the body.

The bear's recycling program is also a dieter's dream: sleep for four months, burn up fat stores, and wake up with a leaner body mass. The researchers suspect that black bears may even be able to make essential amino acids, protein building blocks that mammals generally cannot synthesize but must consume in the diet.

Prostate Cancer: To Treat or Not to Treat?

By Natalie Angier
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Men with early prostate cancer who are not treated for their disease have excellent survival rates that rival those seen in patients who receive aggressive therapy against the malignancy, Swedish researchers have reported.

The finding suggests that for a subgroup of patients with the tumor, doing nothing may be as good or better than surgically removing the prostate gland or blasting it with radiation, the standard treatments in the United States for early-stage prostate cancer.

Some doctors applauded the new report for highlighting scientific ignorance about the best way to treat prostate cancer, a disease that varies widely in its aggressiveness and in how lethal it is. But others condemned the study as highly misleading and having little or no relevance to the great majority of prostate cancer patients.

The critics worried that the report could fuel men into believing that prostate cancer was relatively benign and could be shrugged off as a nuisance of the elderly, when in fact it is the type of cancer that is the second biggest killer of American men, after lung cancer. The disease afflicts a pecan-sized

gland at the base of the bladder that generates fluid to nourish sperm.

Dr. Jan-Erik Johansson and his colleagues at Orebro Medical Center Hospital and Uppsala University in Sweden are reporting their results on Wednesday in The Journal of the American Medical Association.

"Why JAMA would accept a paper like this absolutely shocks me," said Dr. Patrick W. Walsh of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore. "I think it absolutely could misdirect people, and it could be very harmful."

Dr. Walsh is an author of another report in the journal showing that the levels of a blood protein called prostate-specific antigen is a sensitive technique for diagnosing prostate cancer, particularly when used in conjunction with an annual rectal examination.

THE two new studies should jointly raise the pitch of an already student debate among doctors over the merits of early detection of prostate cancer. The Swedish study may also call into question the belief among Americans and their surgeons that the best way to treat prostate cancer like any other malignancy, is by routing it out as quickly and completely as possible.

In the new Swedish study, the researchers followed 223 patients with very early pro-

state cancer, defined as a tumor that was still confined to the gland and that had cellular traits marking it as differentiated, a relatively indolent type of malignancy. The patients received no initial therapy for their disease.

Ten years after the original diagnosis, only 10 percent had died of prostate cancer, a figure that does not differ significantly from success rates with surgery.

The disease had progressed somewhat in another 24 percent of the Swedish patients, but not to the point where it was likely to kill them soon.

Dr. Johansson said the latest results did not prove that no therapy was as good as surgery but did show that the benefits of surgery had yet to be scientifically demonstrated.

"We are not saying that therapy is of no use," he said. "We are saying that surgery should be thought of as still experimental."

Some researchers proposed that those whose surgery for prostate cancer was a success might be just those who had a relatively benign form of the illness, and thus would have fared well even without treatment. He also proposed that those who die of the disease could be afflicted with such a malevolent cancer that no matter what was done, they were likely to die.

"I'm highly supportive of Dr. Johansson's

work, and I think it's very, very important," said Dr. Willet F. Whitmore Jr., an attending surgeon at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York who has studied prostate cancer.

"The question really is, is a cure necessary in those for whom it is possible, and is a cure possible for those in whom it is necessary? Are the current treatments having an impact on the mortality rate? That question is still up for grabs."

BUT other urologists criticized the study for being highly selective in choosing which patients to include. "When they set up their selection criteria, they picked people so they would have a self-fulfilling prophecy," said Dr. William J. Catalona of Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis. "They loaded their study up with elderly men with small cancers who were much more likely to die of something other than prostate cancer."

Others criticized the researchers for masking unpleasant data that tarnished the seemingly rosy outcome of some patients. For example, Dr. Walsh said, when the disease progressed, patients ended up needing either to have their testicles removed or to undergo chemical castration with hormones.

"Is that really preferable to surgical removal of the prostate gland?" he said.

REACHING THE EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP
Most reliable source of international news*
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Financial Times 18
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Time 15
Newsweek 8
Business Week 10
Fortune 10
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Scientific American 10
International Management
The eminent Continental Europeans listed in the International Who's Who choose the IHT over any other international publication as a reliable source of international news.
*Source: Who's Who in Europe Survey, 1990

Space Tomatoes Nothing Special
WASHINGTON — Remember the space tomatoes? NASA, with the help of about 3.3 million schoolchildren, has squeezed the experiment for all its worth and the results are in: Seeds can survive in space for long periods with little or no change in the resulting plant.
The experiment, named SEEDS (Space Exposed Experiment Developed for Students) flew about 12.5 million seeds aboard a NASA satellite for six years. After the crew of the shuttle Columbia retrieved them in January 1990, the seeds were distributed to classrooms around the world for comparison with a control group of Earth tomatoes.
The 8,000 usable student reports returned to NASA suggest that space seeds germinated slightly faster, but the Earth-based seedlings caught up with their space counterparts after about a month. Tests of acidity, root growth, tissue culturing and other factors showed no differences. One space tomato won a blue ribbon at an Oregon fair, but others didn't make it.

ACROSS
1 Singe
9 Robin Williams role
10 Pieces of a pie
11 Shriven and Calais
12 Facial lot-or
13 Hoocla and put on
17 Wocdy's boy
18 Anklebones
19 Skiers mecca
20 Comedian Richard
21 Recent Comb form
22 Negative in Oban
23 An anagram for slare
24 Glasses
25 Shorten, lo short
27 Cousin of a via
28 Twrt
29 Rabbit
30 Wear preceder
31 Peruvian, e.g.
34 Sedaka product
35 --- Magnon
36 Reel material
39 Mine's --- Mar
40 Decay
41 A Bantu of Zaire
42 Lobster's claw
43 Spring or flood
44 Actress Swenson
46 The water: Fr
47 More ignoble
48 Hair treatment
51 French city of racing lame
52 Capek and namesakes
53 Deuce loppet
54 Picford or Martini
55 Kin to a croc
56 Mr. Grasses
57 Mob scene
58 Cure-all
59 Space station
10 Surly one
11 Director Forman
12 Choose
13 Writer Alexander
14 Hair-set aid
15 Follower of 48 Across
20 Thin metal disk
21 Pertaining to an ineffective agent
22 Insh author
23 Couples, Abbr.
24 Italian part.
25 Arthur or Lillie
30 Clam
31 Bitter
32 Of a part of speech
33 Jack Webb show
34 Bundle of wheat
35 In a brisk way
36 Western jamborees
37 Alamojordo's county
42 French town or lace
43 Not so wild
44 Sch. supt., for one
47 Silents vamp
48 Norma or Charlotte
49 Early seafarer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

Handwritten Arabic text: كلوا من الاصل

INTERNATIONAL MANAGER

Lacking an Evil Empire, Hughes Goes Commercial

By Richard W. Stevenson

LOS ANGELES — Just a few years ago, the Soviet Union was still the Evil Empire. Pentagon spending was rising and Harry King was working on a military program at Hughes Aircraft Co.'s radar division. Today the Soviet Union is so more, the future of military contracting is bleak and Mr. King is developing power systems at Hughes for electric cars being designed by the company's parent, General Motors Corp.

Like Mr. King, many managers, scientists and engineers throughout the weapons business are being forced to use their expertise to new ends as their companies struggle to find a place in the post-Cold War world. But a few companies are at Hughes as pronounced as at Hughes.

Long one of the premier U.S. suppliers of sophisticated military electronics, Hughes is trying to remake itself as a technology company capable of moving nimbly into commercial markets while squeezing what profit remains from the shrinking but still substantial Peotago budget.

"If you select people carefully for your projects, as we have, my experience is that the transition is straightforward," said Mr. King, an engineer with a doctorate in physics.

For other defense contractors, however, the transition has been anything but straightforward. Grumman Corp. found that out years ago with its disastrous foray into building buses, and Rockwell International Corp. discovered the same thing in making televisions.

Hughes itself has already discovered that diversification holds more than its share of perils. Last year, the company's expansion into the commercial aircraft flight-simulator and training business, for example, ran smack into the hard times afflicting the airline industry. As a result, Hughes was forced to take write-offs of \$40 million.

OTHER PROMISING IDEAS have proved slow to come around. An ambitious joint venture with partners including NBC and News Corp. to develop a satellite-television network fell apart last year amid questions about the project's financial viability.

In its attempt to wean itself from the Pentagon, Hughes has more going for it than most military contractors. Putting aside a tradition of promoting from within, Hughes recently selected a chief executive, C. Michael Armstrong, who had been a top executive of International Business Machines Corp. and who is experienced in marketing commercial technologies.

to GM, Hughes has a corporate parent that is itself a market for some of its products, such as electric-vehicle power systems. Perhaps most important, Hughes's expertise in advanced electronics lends it more readily to commercial markets than the strengths developed by many other military contractors in fields such as jet-fighter design and submarine construction.

Some Hughes's businesses already have solid records in commercial markets. The company, for example, is a top supplier of telecommunications satellites. It has used its expertise in that field to get into the business of providing telecommunications services. Hughes executives acknowledged that sometimes they must bring commercial expertise into the company by hiring from outside — or in some cases by acquiring entire companies.

Several years ago, Hughes looked at ways to increase the size of a small division that was building audio equipment for the passenger entertainment systems on Boeing Co.'s airplanes. Hughes decided its major oeed was learning about airlines and what they were looking for in entertainment. So in 1990, it bought a small company called Avicom that builds video equipment for planes. Hughes placed its audio division under Avicom's management and offered whatever technical expertise Avicom needed.

Two months ago, Avicom won a \$70 million order from Northwest Airlines to provide a multichannel audio and video entertainment system, including movies, video games and video shopping, to be installed in every seat of the airline's 747s.

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European Chipmakers Clinch Alliance

By Andrew Rosenbaum

PARIS — SGS-Thomson Microelectronics BV and Philips Semiconductors International, Europe's biggest chipmakers, concluded Wednesday the first major European semiconductor research and manufacturing alliance in an effort to win market share from American and Japanese competitors.

The companies pledged to invest \$200 million to cooperate in producing state-of-the-art technology for CMOS, a fast-growing material technology for computer chips. The two companies refused to provide details of the financing.

Although industry specialists have agreed that such alliances were needed to make Europe's chipmakers more competitive, until recently national political imperatives had almost always gotten in the way, allowing American and Japanese producers to dominate most of Europe's semiconductor markets.

Philips and SGS-Thomson, which is owned by the French and Italian governments, along with Siemens AG of Germany, abandoned plans to form a pan-European semiconductor company in October. In November, Philips and the SGS-Thomson announced plans to make the CMOS chips, or complementary metal oxide semiconductor, in Croles, France, but did not provide details.

There has been a plethora of alliances in the computer industry in recent months, including an announcement last month by Philips that it would work on chips for compact-disk interactive technology with Motorola Inc. of the United States, but the agreement announced Wednesday was the first time two big European companies joined together in a deal that included manufacturing.

Wednesday's deal will help Europe move ahead, according to the president of SGS-Thomson, Pasquale Fiorio. "With agreements like this, when the Japanese come to meet us in the year 2000, we'll be ready," he said.

Mr. Fiorio said almost one-third of the world's semiconductor market — worth \$60 billion last year and predicted to grow 13.5 percent this year — would consist of CMOS-type products by 1995. The market for the product that the two companies plan to produce is worth \$7.42 billion this year, according to Dataquest Inc., the computer-industry research company based in San Jose, California.

Mr. Fiorio said research on the semiconductor would be made available to other participants in the Joint European Semiconductor Silicon research program, which is known as JESSI. Facilities for producing the semiconductors also will be shared with JESSI project members, he said.

"Europe has been somewhat behind in this kind of semiconductor manufacturing," said Byron Harding of Dataquest Europe Ltd.

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Hongkong Bank Chief Turns Up Heat on Midland

By Erik Ipsen

LONDON — William Purves, chairman of Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, turned up the heat Wednesday on wavering Midland Bank shareholders in his \$3.1 billion (\$3.4 million) bid to take over their bank.

Without mentioning Lloyds Bank by name, he suggested that any bid for Midland made by another big British bank would likely face three to six months of regulatory delays, especially before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission where, he said, "the outcome is never certain."

Asked why Midland's shares continued to languish at a price well below HSBC Holdings PLC's original offer of 378 pence, Mr. Purves cited uncertainties caused by rumors of a rival bid, and the possibility of lengthy delays it could engender as shareholders held on hoping for regulatory approval of a higher offer.

In a veiled warning, he added that at the end of that protracted process, Midland shareholders might find that HSBC had gotten "fed up and had gone away" taking with it what he maintained was its "generous offer." HSBC made its offer last week.

Speculation over a bid from Lloyds got a big boost Wednesday from an extraordinary editorial in the Financial Times, stating not only that the board of Lloyds would decide later this week whether or not to make a run at Midland, but going on to urge Lloyds to "summon up its courage and press ahead."

In the City of London financial district, where financiers originally had roundly condemned HSBC as excessively stung, hopes of a rival bidder emerging had nonetheless waned steadily.

"The Financial Times editorial certainly does add an interesting dimension, even if it is getting it wrong with the election," said a bank executive, referring to the paper's endorsement of the Labor Party just before the general election earlier this month.

Brian Butler, a Lloyds spokesman, said, "We certainly read the editorial with great interest this morning, but we still have no comment."

Lloyds executives almost certainly will face questions at the bank's annual meeting on Thursday about their appetite for acquisitions.

Mr. Purves, who spoke at a press conference at Midland's headquarters, was beginning a three-day wooing of Midland's British shareholders. Clearly on the defensive, he stressed that his vision of an international bank, based in London and with strong Asian, U.S. and British operations, would offer great potential for its shareholders.

He parried charges that HSBC's record of international expansion was poor. Mr. Purves also denied he had tampered with the running of HSBC's U.S. bank, Marine Midland, stressing that U.S. regulators had only lately allowed him to take a more active hand in running it, having for years limited HSBC to three directors on Marine Midland's board.

On the subject of Hongkong Bank's costly missteps in Australia, however, Mr. Purves conceded he had been late in recognizing the problems and taking necessary remedial steps, such as bringing in new management.

Meanwhile, with the possibility of a bidding contest again looming, London-based analysts agreed that Lloyds Bank could have the upper hand.

"Lloyds could easily outpace HSBC," said Michael Lewer, an analyst with Smith New Court. By combining the third- and fourth-largest British banks, Lloyds could achieve huge cost savings and profits.

Norrie Morrison, an analyst with Kleinwort Benson, said, "If Lloyds were able to take 70 percent of Midland's income and only 40 percent of its costs, imagine what that would do to its earnings."

See BANK, Page 13

Proposal to Cut Sick Pay Riles Germans

By Richard E. Smith

FRANKFURT — A provocative plan under consideration in Bonn to curb Germany's generous sick-pay provisions has outraged the country's trade unions just as they are threatening nationwide strikes to press for higher wages.

The proposal, which has been floated by senior members of the governing coalition as a way of curbing overinflated public spending, also appears to be only a trial balloon. But it has inflamed opinion throughout the country and threatens to exacerbate an already bitter labor-relations climate.

The issue exemplifies the political and financial strains on Germany as it struggles both to pay for the reconstruction of Eastern Germany and to maintain Western Germany's elaborate social state.

Under the proposal being discussed in government circles, workers would no longer be automatically paid for the first three days of sick leave.

The opposition Social Democrats and union leaders have called the idea everything from a "regression to the 1950s" to a "perversion of the social state."

Even before any concrete proposals have emerged, key unions have threatened to take the issue to the highest courts and to wage nationwide strikes.

The sick-pay issue is coming to a boil even as public-service workers began to vote Wednesday on the possibility of a strike over wages. Major public services such as transport and mail delivery could be interrupted if three-quarters of the 500,000 union members agree to strike, an outcome that the union leader Monika Wolf-Mathies said was "inevitable." Final results of the ballot are expected on Saturday.

Meanwhile, some 4 million metalworkers, members of the largest union in Germany, are preparing for a confrontation over pay later this spring.

By any reckoning, this means the timing of the inflammatory new proposal is abysmal. But there is probably no good time for a plan that tinkers with a right considered automatic by nearly everyone in the country.

German workers can be absent for three days before being required to produce a doctor's note. The proposal would strip them of pay for the first three days of sickness unless they provided such a note.

Employers say German workers show a proclivity for coming down ill on Fridays and Mondays. They say as many as 300,000 workers play sick every day, more than one-third of those who call in sick.

In Germany, the labor movement is particularly proud of guarantees for sick pay. Some workers were receiving sick pay as early as 1861; the practice was gradually extended to all workers and finally embedded in national legislation in 1970.

But it was not earned easily. The climax was a 16-week strike over the issue in 1957, the longest strike ever in West Germany.

Since the current right to take paid sick days is protected both by law and by specific union agreements for four out of five German workers, the ruling coalition will probably be wary about pushing the issue too hard, especially since the Social Democrats are powerful enough in Parliament to block it.

At the same time, the idea may be the kind of "would-be magic political poison" that will appeal to the ruling coalition more and more as it struggles with the costs of unification, according to an editorial in the Süddeutsche Zeitung, a Munich newspaper.

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Vickers PLC has been rebuffed by Toyota Motor Corp. in its continuing effort to find a buyer for its troubled Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd. unit.

On Wednesday, the president of Toyota, Shoichiro Toyoda, said at a press conference in Osaka that Rolls-Royce had asked the Japanese carmaker to make a "quick decision" on whether to buy the company.

But he said Toyota "refused the offer" because it had not had enough time to consider the deal. He disclosed no further details. A Vickers spokesman would say only that the company had had "contact with a number of international companies" about the future of Rolls-Royce, and that it would not comment on the talks.

Toyota's decision follows earlier public rebuffs by Bayerische Motoren-Werke-AG of Germany and Peugeot SA of France. On Wednesday, the BMW commercial director, Robert Bächelholzer, reiterated that BMW had no intention of taking a stake in Rolls-Royce.

Other companies seen by industry analysts as possible buyers include General Motors Corp., Fiat SpA, Hanson PLC and Toyota's Japanese distributor, Isuzu PLC.

In December, Vickers said it was seeking a buyer for all or part of Rolls-Royce after continued losses at the unit, which pushed Vickers into a 1991 pretax loss of £12.4 million (\$21.7 million), after a profit of £96.5 million the year before.

Rolls-Royce sales fell from a high of about 3,500 in 1990 to just above 1,500 last year when its main U.S. and British markets went into recession.

Toyota Rebuffs Vickers on Rolls-Royce

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BMW is rumored to have offered £120 million for Rolls-Royce, while Vickers is said to be seeking £200 million, after dropping earlier demands for £300 million.

"It is interesting to see that Vickers went from an original position that Rolls-Royce was not for sale, to the current position of asking for bids on short notice," said Zafar Khan, an analyst with S. G. Strauss Turnbull.

Noriyuki Matsushima, an automobile industry analyst at Nikko Research Center Ltd. in Tokyo, said Toyota may have been worried about drawing criticism if it had agreed to make the purchase. He added that the Japanese carmaker could not buy Rolls-Royce under current business conditions because its own sales were weak.

See BANK, Page 13

CURRENCY RATES

Table with columns for City, Currency, and Rate. Includes Amsterdam, London, Frankfurt, etc.

Other Dollar Values

Table with columns for Currency, Par \$, and Rate. Includes Australian dollar, Canadian dollar, etc.

Forward Rates

Table with columns for Currency, Period, and Rate. Includes 30-day, 60-day, 90-day forward rates.

INTEREST RATES

Table with columns for Eurocurrency Deposits, Rate, and Term. Includes 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year.

Key Interest Rates

Table with columns for Instrument, Rate, and Term. Includes 30-day Treasury bill, 90-day Treasury bill, etc.

U.S. Money Market Funds

Table with columns for Fund Name, Assets, and Yield. Includes Merrill Lynch Money Assets, etc.

Asian Dollar Deposits

Table with columns for Term, Rate, and Location. Includes 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year.

GOLD

Table with columns for Location, Price, and Date. Includes Hong Kong, London, Zurich, etc.

GE and De Beers Targets Of U.S. Diamond Inquiry

NEW YORK — The U.S. government said Wednesday that it was investigating whether General Electric Co. and De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. conspired to fix prices of industrial diamonds.

The Justice Department said it began an inquiry after a former GE executive sued the company, alleging it conspired to fix prices on industrial diamonds, which are used in cutting and grinding tools.

Edward Russell, who has been fired as manager of GE's industrial diamonds division, alleged that GE executives conspired with De Beers to fix industrial-diamond prices and covered up a kickback scheme.

GE denied Mr. Russell's allegations and said he was fired because his division did not meet profit expectations during the two years he ran it. But GE also said it was beginning an internal investigation because of the suit and would fully cooperate with the government's investigation.

The suit alleges that Mr. Russell's superior at GE, Glen Hiner, secretly met with De Beers executives from 1985-91, despite Mr. Russell's protests that the meetings could violate U.S. antitrust laws.

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LOS ANGELES — In the age of film megadeals, one of the biggest of all was made this week when 20th Century Fox and James Cameron, director of such films as "Terminator 2," signed a five-year agreement the studio said was valued at about \$500 million.

A buoyant Joe Roth, chairman of Fox studios, said the amount represented a portion of the costs of the next 12 films that Mr. Cameron would produce for the studio, four of which he will direct.

What makes the arrangement unusual is that it gives a director artistic control over all of his films, as well as enormous financial leverage and independence. How much money will go to Mr. Cameron personally was left undisclosed, but it is considerable. Although Fox will provide a hefty share of the financing for the films, other sources, probably from outside the United States, will also invest.

From the viewpoint of Fox, including Mr. Roth and Rupert Murdoch, the chairman of Fox Inc., the deal, announced Tuesday, virtually guarantees a potential blockbuster for each of the next five years.

Mr. Cameron wrote and directed such science-fiction extravaganzas as "The Terminator," which grossed \$38 million in 1984, and directed, cowrote and produced "Terminator 2: Judgment Day," which grossed \$204 million in 1991, "Alien," which grossed \$60 million in the United States, in 1979, and "Alien," which grossed \$81 million in 1986. Many of these movies were enormously expensive to make, too. Estimates of the cost of "Terminator 2" reached as high as \$100 million.

Mr. Roth said: "This is the first time I can remember where a director of this stature has said, 'I'll give you my exclusive services as a writer, director and producer.' He's arguably one of the biggest names in the industry, and what he told us, in effect, is that he wants to control his own destiny."

Dawn Steel, a former Columbia Pictures chairwoman and a producer, said: "It's really a very important deal for Fox. There are few filmmakers who can generate their own material like James Cameron."

"We may have just made a

MARKET DIARY

Airline Issues Fall For 3d Straight Day

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches NEW YORK — Airline stocks were pressured for the third straight day but bank issues recorded a second day of gains on Wednesday...

The Treasury's auction of \$14.75 billion of two-year notes at an average and high yield of 5.43 percent...

N.Y. Stocks

vancers by a few stocks in heavy New York Stock Exchange trading. Secondary issues fared better, with the Nasdaq composite over-the-counter index up 3.18, to 578.23.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 4.48 points, to 3,338.77, while declining issues outnumbered advancing ones.

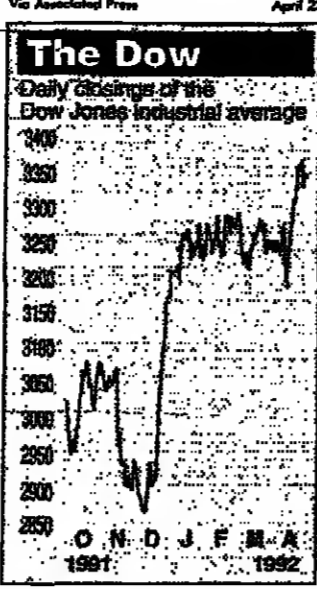


Table of NYSE Most Active stocks including Citicorp, Citigroup, and American Express.

Table of NYSE Diary showing advanced, declined, and unchanged stocks.

Table of NASDAQ Diary showing advanced, declined, and unchanged stocks.

Dollar Closes Lower Amid Big Sale Order

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches NEW YORK — The dollar ended mostly lower Wednesday in quiet trading punctuated by a large order to sell dollars.

for a confrontation over pay, and speculation that Germany might be urged to lower its interest rates at the G-7 meeting this weekend.

Foreign Exchange

east Asian central bank. Others said it was a U.S. money-center bank. The dollar closed at 1.6623 DM, down from 1.6690 DM on Tuesday...

Traders said the U.S. currency was kept in narrow ranges by caution ahead of the weekend meeting of the Group of Seven industrialized nations.

Amex Diary

Table of Amex Diary showing advanced, declined, and unchanged stocks.

NASDAQ Diary

Table of NASDAQ Diary showing advanced, declined, and unchanged stocks.

Table of Dow Jones Averages showing Open, High, Low, and Close for various indices.

Table of Standard & Poor's Indexes showing various market indices.

Table of NYSE Indexes showing various market indices.

Table of NASDAQ Indexes showing various market indices.

Table of Dow Jones Bond Averages showing various bond indices.

Table of Market Sales showing various market sales data.

Table of NYSE Odd-Lot Trading showing odd-lot trading data.

Table of S&P 100 Index Options showing options data.

Table of EUROPEAN FUTURES showing various futures contracts.

Table of Food futures showing various food futures contracts.

Table of COFFEE (F00) showing coffee futures contracts.

Table of METALS showing various metal futures contracts.

Table of MONTH STERLING (L1FF) showing sterling futures contracts.

Table of MONTH EURODOLLARS (L1FF) showing eurodollar futures contracts.

Table of MONTH EURODOLLARS (L1FF) showing eurodollar futures contracts.

Table of MONTH EURODOLLARS (L1FF) showing eurodollar futures contracts.

Table of LONG OIL (L1FF) showing oil futures contracts.

Table of STOCK INDEXES showing various stock indices.

Table of INDUSTRIES showing various industry futures contracts.

Table of DIVIDENDS showing various dividend data.

Table of STOCK showing various stock data.

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Dow Chemical Profit Plunges 70% MIDLAND, Michigan (UPI) — Dow Chemical Co., citing the weak economy, said Wednesday that first-quarter net profit fell 70.4 percent...

Phone Firms and IBM Form Alliance SEATTLE (Reuters) — Nine phone companies and International Business Machines Corp. forged an alliance Wednesday to give laptop computer users access to data cheaply using the cellular-phone system...

Pact Set on Sale of LTV Businesses WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Thomson-CSF of France, the Carlyle Group and LTV Corp. of the United States announced Wednesday they had signed a definitive pact for Thomson to buy LTV's missile business for \$300 million...

Ralston Plans Bakery Unit Spin-Off ST. LOUIS, Missouri (AP) — Ralston Purina Co. announced Wednesday to spin off Continental Baking Co., the maker of Twinkles and Wonder Bread, into a separate company...

U.S. Per Capita Income Takes Dip WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans' per capita income, adjusted for inflation, shrank in 1991 for the first time in nine years, the government said Wednesday.

For the Record Caterpillar Inc., recovering from a strike by the United Auto Workers union, said Wednesday that losses surged more than fourfold in the first quarter, to \$132 million, from \$32 million.

Total Buys Into Portugal

PARIS — Total-Compagnie Française des Petroles said Wednesday that the acquisition of a 51 percent stake in the Portuguese state oil refiner Petrogal by Total and nine Portuguese investors would give it a bigger stake in the Iberian and African markets.

The group, in which Total has a 48 percent stake, will acquire 25 percent of Petrogal immediately from the Portuguese state and another 26 percent in the next three years.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Large table showing world stock markets for various cities including Amsterdam, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Brussels, Johannesburg, Frankfurt, London, Montreal, and Toronto.

U.S. FUTURES

Table showing U.S. futures markets for various commodities including grains, livestock, and metals.

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NYSE

Wednesday's Closing
Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

Stock	Div Yld	PE	52 High	52 Low	PM OTC
AA					
ABB					
ABC					
ABT					
AC					
ACI					
ACN					
AD					
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ADT					
ADV					
AE					
AET					
AFL					
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AIRT					
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AKA					
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AKNA					
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AKND					

NYSE

Wednesday's Closing
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(Continued)


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100.00	99.00	IBM	+0.50
100.00	99.00	Microsoft	+0.50
100.00	99.00	Oracle	+0.50
100.00	99.00	Novell	+0.50
100.00	99.00	Lotus	+0.50
100.00	99.00	Intuit	+0.50
100.00	99.00	Parsons	+0.50
100.00	99.00	Boeing	+0.50
100.00	99.00	Lockheed	+0.50
100.00	99.00	Rockwell	+0.50
100.00	99.00	Northrop	+0.50
100.00	99.00	Boeing	+0.50
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100.00	99.00	Northrop	+0.50

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100.00	99.00	Lockheed	+0.50
100.00	99.00	Rockwell	+0.50
100.00	99.00	Northrop	+0.50

L'ORÉAL



NET PROFIT
+19.7%

before capital gains and losses, after minority interests

DIVIDEND
+20%

	1991	% of growth compared to 1990
Consolidated net sales	\$6.444 B.	+ 10.2%
Profit before taxes and employee profit sharing, and before capital gains and losses	\$866 M.	+ 11.7%
Net profit before capital gains and losses after minority interests	\$357 M.	+ 19.7%
Net profit before capital gains and losses after minority interests per share and investment certificate	\$5.55	+ 19.7%
Proposed dividend	\$1.62	+ 20%

1991 CONSOLIDATED NET SALES BEFORE TAXES BY DIVISION: \$6.4 billion (in \$)

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF 1991 MANAGED COSMETIC SALES: \$5.8 billion (in \$)

As every year, Mr. Lindsay, OWEN-JONES, the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, has invited analysts, journalists and investors to L'OREAL headquarters to present and comment on the status and the results of the company for 1991.

Consolidated sales before sales taxes have grown to \$6.4 billion, an increase of 10.2%.

Additionally, the managed sales of L'OREAL, which includes sales of our agents in North America, has increased to approximately \$7.6 billion.

The net profit before capital gains and losses and after minority interests reached \$357 million, which is an increase of 19.7% compared to 1990. The earnings per share and investment certificate, before capital gains and losses and after minority interests, was \$5.55 in 1991, versus \$5.55 in 1990.

Despite the difficult international situation in 1991, L'OREAL continued to grow in volume and improved its shares of the market. The strategy of the Group remains centered on internationalization, research and development, and the launch of innovative products.

The Board of Directors of L'OREAL, decided to propose to the Annual Meeting of the Shareholders, convened on Tuesday, May 26, 1992, the distribution of a net dividend of \$1.62, an increase of 20% from 1990. This dividend is for both ordinary shares and certificates of investment.

For additional information, please consult banks, stockbrokers or financial advisors as well as your daily newspaper or contact Mr. François Archambault Director of Investor Relations and Business Information of L'OREAL Group
41 Rue Martre 92117 CLICHY - (France) - Fax 011 331 47 56 86 42.

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AMEX

Wednesday's Closing

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

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SPORTS BASKETBALL

Round One: The Old and the New

The Associated Press

The first round of the National Basketball Association playoffs could feature another Indiana-Boston war, Utah and New York battling emotional wounds and Miami trying to overcome a 29-game regular-season deficit.

The Los Angeles Lakers are making their 16th consecutive playoff appearance in an unfamiliar underdog role after beating the

NBA PLAYOFFS PREVIEW

odds to get a berth on the final day of the season. And the crosstown Clippers will play their first post-season game in 16 years.

Injuries, the great playoff equalizer, are popping up nearly everywhere. Three of the game's biggest stars are ailing: Michael Jordan in Chicago, Larry Bird in Boston and Clyde Drexler in Portland.

Jordan, who strained his lower back while scoring 32 points in Sunday's season-finale against Detroit, underwent 45 minutes of treatment after the game. The six-time scoring champion predicted that he would be fine by the time the Bulls face the Miami Heat in the series opener.

The news was equally good in Portland, where Drexler sat out the last four games of the regular season because of a sprained right knee. He went full speed through a workout Monday and said he was ready.

Bird, who missed the last eight games of the season—all victories as the Celtics earned the No. 2 seeding in the Eastern Conference—is doubtful for Boston's opener against Indiana.

With the seedings in parentheses, a look at the pairings in the best-of-five games series, which begin Thursday and Friday:

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Heat (8) vs. Bulls (1): Chicago is 14-0 against Miami in the four years since the Heat joined the NBA, and there's little reason to expect a first defeat now. Glen Rice made giant strides toward all-star status in bringing Miami to its first playoff appearance, but the Bulls have two Olympians in Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen. Chicago won 67 games, Miami 38.

Pacers (7) vs. Celtics (2): Even without Bird, the Celtics finished with a rush to win the Atlantic Division. Bird loves to play against

his home state's team, and he'll be there if his aching back will let him. His presence also fires up Indiana's Chuck Person, who was outstanding in the Pacers' 3-2 first-round loss to Boston last season. Detlef Schrempf, still the sixth man, emerged as Indiana's best all-around player as the team came back from a terrible start to make the playoffs again.

Nets (6) vs. Cavaliers (3): Despite the NBA's second-best record, Cleveland had to settle for a No. 3 seeding because it plays in the same division as the Bulls. The Cavaliers are battling nagging injuries to key players Brad Daugherty and Mark Price, plus a more serious knee injury to guard Craig Ehlo. But the Cavs are too solid for the volatile Nets, who seem too interested in coach Bill Fitch's substitution decisions. Like Michigan in the college ranks, New Jersey has the talent on hand to go further in the playoffs, but the Nets could learn some maturity from the Wolverines' freshmen.

Pistons (5) vs. Knicks (4): New York's coach, Pat Riley, swears there will be no psychological scars from blowing the No. 2 seed to Boston. But there are other wounds to New York's psyche that are closer to this series—like the 61 points the Knicks scored recently against Detroit. The home-court advantage will work in the Knicks' favor if they start well, but the edgy New York fans will remember the five-game lead with eight to play if things start going poorly. The Pistons also have walked a psychological tightrope lately, following a 1-6 stretch with a six-game winning streak.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Lakers (8) vs. Trail Blazers (1): These Lakers aren't very similar to the franchise's 15 other playoff teams in the last 16 years. There's no Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, James Worthy and Sam Perkins to intimidate the opposition. Houston blew this playoff berth more than Los Angeles won it. In this series, Clyde Drexler, Terry Porter, Buck Williams and Jerome Kersey aren't likely to follow the Rockets' lead. If center Kevin Duckworth continues his recent resurgence, Portland will be more dangerous than ever.

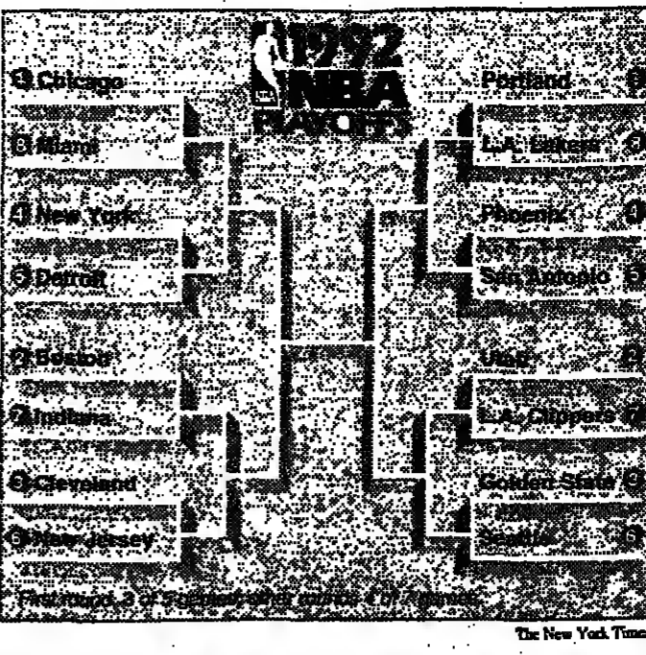
Clippers (7) vs. Jazz (2): Utah is the Western Conference's answer

to the Knicks when it comes to carrying emotional baggage. The Jazz won the Midwest by eight games, so their ability to win the close ones is still in question after last-day division losses the previous two years and first-round playoff defeats in 1989 and 1990. The Clippers, who have played far better than seventh-seed level since Larry Brown took over as coach, could prove to be a rough first-round test. But the determination of Olympians Karl Malone and John Stockton and Utah's outstanding record at home should carry the Jazz over Danny Manning and Ron Harper.

SuperSonics (6) vs. Warriors (3): Seattle is another team that improved after a midseason coaching change, from K.C. Jones to George

Karl. The SuperSonics certainly have the potential to give rebound-deficient Golden State trouble inside with Benoit Benjamin and Shawn Kemp. In Ricky Pierce and Eddie Johnson, the Sonics also have the scorers to match Chris Mullin, Tim Hardaway, and Sarunas Marciulionis.

Spurs (5) vs. Suns (4): This is, of course, a more interesting series if David Robinson plays for San Antonio. Tom Chambers is hobbled for Phoenix and several Suns teammates are fighting nagging injuries, but nothing approaches the loss of Robinson to the Spurs, who went 5-9 down the stretch without him. Even with Robinson, the Suns would be tough at home for the Spurs, so San Antonio needed the home-court advantage.



Can Bulls Ride the Crest To a 2d Straight Title?

By Ira Berkow
New York Times Staff

CHICAGO — Here in the Venice of the West, where people now paddle through the hallways of their offices, the National Basketball Association playoffs come just in time. It may take some minds off the flooding of the Loop area from the waters of the Chicago River: What might come first, a second Bulls championship or a dry Wacker Drive?

While the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and assorted other agencies battle the flood disaster, now in its second week, and radio reports inform where to find mass transportation shuttles to avoid saturated streets and sodden subways, the Bulls, high and dry, and happy about it, began preparation Tuesday to defend their title.

In suburban Deerfield, they held their first practice of the real season—the playoffs—after racking up a 67-15 record in the six-month warm-up period.

The fourth-best regular-season mark in NBA history was nice, but it does not mean all that much since a new day will dawn Friday night, when the Bulls play host to the Miami Heat in the first round of what they anticipate will be a total of four rounds, ending, as it did last season, in the finals.

"Now reality sets in," said the lengthy coach, Phil Jackson.

"In a large sense," said Bill Cartwright, the center, "it all just comes down to the playoffs."

So they arrived at the Multiplex, a workout emporium for the locals that houses a small gymnasium, and they came nearly as was written at the time of another notable flood—"two of every sort," when "all the fountains of the great deep were broken up and the windows of heaven opened."

Here came a pair of large pivots, Cartwright and Will Perdue, and a pair of small guards, John Paxson and B. J. Armstrong, and a pair of the forwards, Horace Grant and Scottie Pippen, and—wait a minute! Where's the other guy? Where's Michael Jordan?

The Bulls know that they must have Jordan if they are to set sail with confidence.

And we recall: After Sunday's finale, a victory over the Detroit Pistons, Jordan was in terrible pain, having suffered from lower back spasms. He had injured himself in the first quarter, but insisted on playing the full game, wearing a back brace, and wound up scoring 32 points.

He was well aware that he needed to score more than 30 points to bring his league-leading average to 30 a game for a sixth straight season. He also finished as the NBA scoring leader for the sixth straight season—and finished on his hands and knees and in agony in the trainer's room.

It seems that as hurt as he sometimes is, he comes back as if having taken a miracle drug. Bulls watchers remember, for example, a game in Portland in November when his back hurt so badly he could not take off his game jersey, and boarded the plane still wearing it. The next night, against Sacramento, he scored 30 points.

"Where's Michael? Is Michael here?" someone now asked at the Multiplex.

Just then, via the back door, came Jordan. Alone. Which probably would have been the case had he climbed aboard the old ark because there has never been another quite like him. He walked a little stiffly, but easily. He didn't practice, but hung out in the trainer's room.

Health report: good.

PHIL JACKSON recalls the 1973 New York Knicks, who beat Boston in the playoffs, after the Celtics had won 68 games during the regular season. "Yes," said Jackson, "I've alluded to such things with my guys. Despite such reality checks, the Bulls remain the best team in basketball. Still, accidents do happen. And Chicago has had its share. Ask the people downtown who are now investing in periscopes.

But that involved the Chicago River. The Jordan has proved more dependable.



ALL-POWERFUL ALL BLACKS — Two of New Zealand's All Blacks, Eroni Clarke (12) and Walter Little (10), smothering Jamie Claessens of the World XV rugby team in a test match in Wellington on Wednesday. The All Blacks blazed to a 54-26 victory, scoring 10 tries to the world selection's five. It was the second of three tests marking the New Zealand rugby union's centennial.

BOOKS

CAST NO SHADOW: The Life of the American Spy Who Changed the Course of World War II

By Mary S. Lovell. 398 pages. \$25. Pantheon Books, 201 East 50th Street, New York, New York 10022.

Reviewed by Teresa Riordan

THE spy career of Elizabeth (Betty) Thorpe Pack, who is best known by the code name of Cynthia, was as daring and dangerous and scintillating as that of Mata Hari. Full of seduction and intrigue, the story of this American debutante turned British agent is only now being fully told, in Mary S. Lovell's well-researched biography.

Pack was a devastatingly packaged femme fatale: amber blond hair, expressive eyes "like a dash of green chartreuse in a pool of limpid hazel," and a strident, mellifluous voice. The height of her career came 50 years ago this spring in Washington, when she made a series of white-knuckle attempts to burgle the Vichy France Embassy of its naval code books. On her final attempt to crack the embassy code safe, Pack and her Vichy-turncoat lover, Charles Brousse, were caught by the flashlight of a suspicious guard. Pack had heard the guard's footfalls, however, and had taken the precaution of removing all her clothes—save a string of pearls and a pair of high-heeled

pumps. "A thousand apologies," said the guard, as he backed away, leaving the amorous couple ample time to pass the code books out of the windows so they could be photographed by waiting agents.

This scene may be familiar to spy aficionados, but except for a sloppy biography/memoir from 1966 by H. Montgomery Hyde, much of the rest of Pack's story has gone unchronicled.

Lovell attributes the historical neglect of Betty Pack to a sort of "old boy protectionism" among professional spies, who have discounted the work of amateurs—particularly those doing the "dirty work" of sex for secrets—so as not to detract from their own glory.

That Pack made an important contribution to the war effort is indisputable. Churchill himself acknowledged the importance of the BSC (the British counter-part to the OSS) infiltration of the Vichy embassy, and Lovell tells us that the agency shared Pack's dispatches with President Roosevelt within hours after they had been filed. Indeed, the French naval codes that Pack and Brousse procured appear to have yielded intelligence that was key to the successful Allied landing in North Africa.

Pack's official role with British intelligence began in 1937, when her husband, Alfred, a British foreign service officer, was posted to Warsaw. The Packs had just come from Spain, where Betty, in her mid-20s, had formed purely avocational liaisons with an air force officer, a diplomat, and, incredibly, a priest. In Poland

she proved willing to sleep around in a more professional capacity.

She took as a lover a highly placed Polish count who passed along intelligence on the crucial German cipher machine known as Enigma, as well as information on Nazi plans to annex the Czechoslovak Sudetenland. By the time she got to Washington, Pack had already proved herself a valuable agent.

One can't help wishing the narrative had been executed with a bit more verve. Lovell reduces the most important and seductive part of Pack's professional and personal life (Charles Brousse) to an economical passage: "After a few passionate kisses in the hallway, he picked Betty up and carried her up the narrow stairs... laid her on the bed and began to undress her."

Contrast that with Pack's own breathy account, which (no doubt hyped by an editor) appeared in British newspapers in the early 1960s: "He planted a long, passionate kiss on my lips and pressed my back against the door until I was limp. Then he swung me easily off the floor and started to carry me up the stairs. 'Charles,' I remonstrated feebly, 'what are you doing?' He looked at me hungrily. 'Just point out your bedroom,'" he said. "You have nothing to fear, chérie."

Ah, yes, c'est la guerre.

Teresa Riordan, a Washington writer who is working on a screenplay based on the life of Betty Pack, wrote this for *The Washington Post*.

BRIDGE

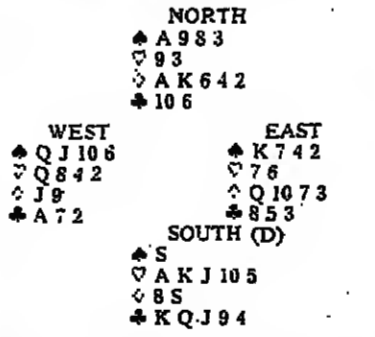
By Alan Truscott

THE South hand shown in the diagram arrived in four hearts. Many would be likely to fail if either defender held more than four spades plus the club ace.

In four hearts there was a trap to avoid after winning the opening spade lead with dummy's ace. A rovine player would take a heart finesse, and lose to the queen. West would continue spades and South would lose control. West would play another spade on gaining the lead with the club ace, and the defense would prevail.

Instead South immediately cashed her ace and king of hearts and played clubs. West took the ace and continued spades forcing a ruff. The declarer continued clubs, and was a tempo ahead. West could take two trump tricks whenever he chose, but the contract was safe.

South was willing to lose two trump tricks and perhaps sacrifice an overtrick if the hearts were more favorably placed. But that would have been a small price to pay for bringing home a game.



Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding: South 1♥, North 2♥, East 3♥, South 4♥. West led the spade queen.

PEANUTS



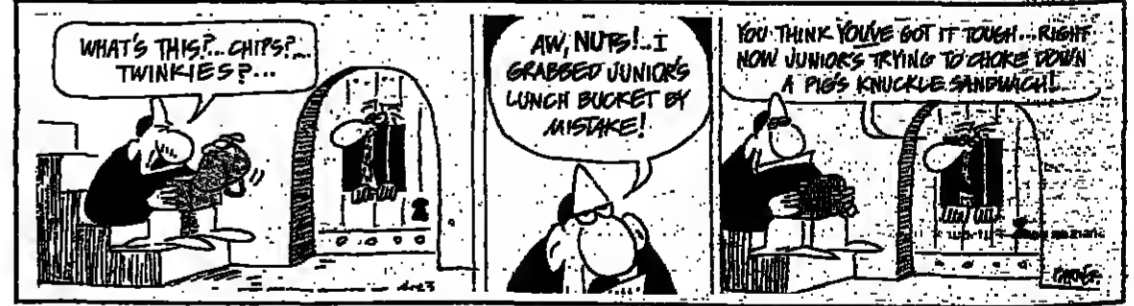
BEEBLE BAILEY



CALVIN AND HOBBES



WIZARD of ID



REX MORGAN



GARFIELD



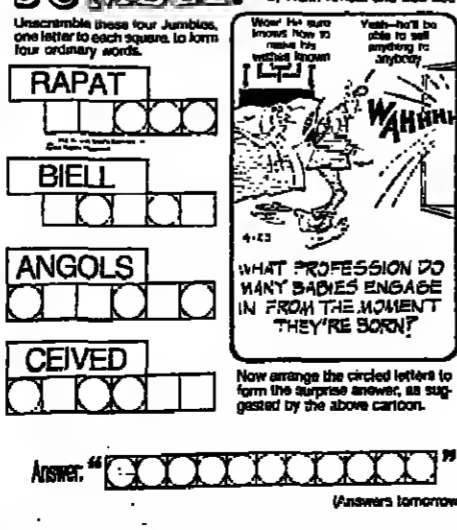
DOONESBURY



DENNIS THE MENACE



JUMBLE



Yesterday's Jumble: BLAZE GUESS OCHORT TRAGIC Answer: The horse-drawn carriage disappeared with the arrival of the... THE... CAR... AGE

BLONDIE



SPORTS AMERICA'S CUP

Big Money and Bigger Egos Maneuver for Yachting's Biggest Prize

By Angus Phillips
Washington Post Service

SAN DIEGO—Sir Michael Fay was firm about it. "No," he told the courtroom at Kentucky Fried Chicken. "I don't want the three- or five-piece special. I want four pieces, all things."

"I'm going to have to charge you \$1 extra," said the court clerk.

"That's O.K.," said Fay. "I think I can afford it."

Even a multimillionaire has to eat, and when Fay's day runs long and he misses the New Zealand team dinner at Oakwood Apartments on Coronado Island, where his 100-member America's Cup assemblage lives, he pops over to the KFC carryout line.

"I think they put something in the chicken, don't you?" asked the merchant banker. "Something to keep you coming back."

The same might be said of the cup itself.

For 141 years, barons of industry and commerce like Fay have been drawn to sailing's grand event like moths to a flame. Some come away scorched, others burnished to a rich, golden hue.

Unsurprisingly, the 28th cup defense here has drawn its share of big spenders:

- Fay, who has sunk about \$65 million into pursuing the oldest trophy in sport over the last seven years and so far won only a knighthood for his efforts. His personal fortune is said to be well over \$100 million by New Zealand insiders.
- Raul Gardini of Italy, who headed the \$28-billion-a-year Montedison Corp. until recently, when an internal spat sent him packing with a \$450 million settlement.
- Bill Koch, the defense candidate, who walked away from the family petroleum dynasty with \$630 million and started his own \$1 billion alternative-energy operation, Orbex Corp.

These are the titans in pursuit of the prize that tantalized the likes of Harold Vanderbilt, Sir Thomas Lipton, Baron Marcel Bich, Ted Turner and the Aga Khan.

As the final round of trials moves toward the clash of challenger and defender beginning May 9, the big money and big egos are stepping up.

Fay, Gardini, Koch. Each brings some-

thing singular to the mix of king-size personalities that colors the cup legend.

Koch, 51, is the oddest duck of all. A tall, rangy Kansan with a mop of graying red hair and a doctorate from MIT, he will tell you with a straight face that he is sailing to prove that "an ordinary guy can win the cup." Koch is shoveling money overboard at a rate of nearly \$1 million a week.

A halting public speaker, Koch is undeniably shy and proclaims distaste for publicity — yet he turns up at almost every press conference, usually in eye-catching garb.

Like Bich and Turner and Vanderbilt, Koch, a newcomer to the sport in the last eight years, likes the feel of the wheel in his hands, a trait that almost led to mutiny last month when his team of sailing professionals started losing races to Dennis Conner.

To his credit, Koch defused the revolt through heart-to-heart talks with leaders of his 250-member team. For a while, he even took himself off the boat. When the victories resumed, he was back romping the cockpit like an overgrown kid.

But for all his peculiarities, Koch in just over a year has forged a superb team and produced the high-tech America 3, one of the fleetest, sweetest, prettiest boats in the regatta.

Unlike Koch, Gardini, the Italian sportsfisherman.

But he has paid professionals doing the work in his sport, just as in his life.

Gardini married into one of Europe's leading families when he wed Lina Ferruzzi in 1957, took over the family business when her father died in a plane crash 22 years later and built it into a multibillion-dollar European agrochemical dynasty over a family purge, betting out last year.

Gardini, called *il Contadino*, the Farmer, by the Italian press for his rough-and-tumble roots, claims to have once made his living by playing poker in a bar in Ravenna, Italy. He is a dapper, worldly chain-smoker with an easy, toothy smile.

Finally into the mix comes Fay, 43, the feisty New Zealander to whom the cup has become an obsession despite his not even liking to sail. He not only will not steer, he will not even go on the race boat, citing a tendency toward seasickness.

Race horses are Fay's passion, but when Australia won the cup and staged

the first-ever defense beyond U.S. shores in 1986-87, Fay reckoned that neighbor and longtime sporting rival New Zealand had better be there.

He was in position to mount the effort as co-chairman of a booming Auckland merchant banking and brokerage house he had established with David Richardson in the 1970s.

When his gang of Kiwi novices made it all the way to the challenger finals before being dispatched by Conner, Fay caught "swamp-water fever," as he calls it, and he wanted more.

His obsessive quest led to the regrettable fiasco of 1988, when he challenged under antiquated cup rules in a huge, 90-foot boat that was easily defeated by Conner's smaller catamaran in the "coma off Point Loma."

Now Fay is seen by many as the favorite to take the cup.

Once the life of the party, Fay is not seen much around San Diego these days unless you happen to bump into him on the sidewalk. Content to roam behind the scenes, making final decisions, he does not attend press conferences and shows interviews.

Fay has hired Peter Blake, winner of the Whitbread Round-the-World Race, to manage daily operations, and puts increasing trust and confidence in his skipper, Rod Davis.

Fay has been through it all. He watched his business boom after the remarkable Kiwi showing in Australia and then bottom out when public disfavor followed the 1988 fiasco.

Now Fay wants to win the prize, and he figures the way you do this is to keep your head down, your voice low and your knives sharp.

The man all three hope to dethrone is Conner, the cupholder, son of a commercial fisherman who is trying to do this campaign all by himself for the first time — drumming up the money he needs through corporate sponsorships instead of bowing to some megamillionaire who can underwrite the huge and often unpredictable costs.

Koch believes an ordinary man can win the cup, and Conner is trying to prove him right. But it is not looking too promising as Conner's struggling, out-of-budget campaign lurches closer to elimination.

A Devil of a Night For Ranger Goalie

The Associated Press

John Vanbiesbrouck gave up a month's worth of goals in one night. The wrong night.

Vanbiesbrouck came into Game 2 of the New York Rangers' Patrick Division semifinal series against New Jersey with an 11-game unbeaten streak during which he had allowed just 12 goals. He left with his first National Hockey League loss in two months after surrendering seven goals on 28 shots in New Jersey's series-tying 7-3 victory Tuesday night in New York.

"We drove to the net and got more quality shots," said New Jersey's Claude Lemieux, who scored twice and excelled defensively. "We had the same chances as the first game. We just didn't put them in."

Vanbiesbrouck had not lost since Feb. 20, had not allowed more than one goal in a game since Feb. 21 and had been superb in the Rangers' 2-1 series-opening victory. This time, though, he was ordinary — and the Devils capitalized.

"We made some mistakes out there," said the Rangers' captain, Mark Messier, who scored a pair of shorthanded goals.

Lemieux, the Devils' top scorer with 41 goals, was at his infuriating best as a pest — and also contributed the go-ahead goal at 17:42 of the second period. Laurie Boschman made it 4-2 just 56 seconds later, and Bill Guerin, a rookie, gave New Jersey a three-goal lead just 32 seconds into the third period.

Messier's second, shorthanded goal gave New York some hope, but power-play goals by Lemieux and Eric Weintraub put the game away.

Capitals 6, Penguins 2: The Penguins got a spark from the return of Mario Lemieux, but it lasted less than half a period as Washington



Cleveland second baseman Carlos Baerga flipped over Toronto's Kelly Graber, but Graber was out.

Edging Expos, Pirates Extend Winning Ways to 8 Games

The Associated Press

Despite losing Bobby Bonilla, John Smiley and Bill Landrum, the Pittsburgh Pirates have not lost their winning ways.

Andy Van Slyke's two-run triple highlighted a five-run first inning and the Pirates held off a late rally to beat Montreal, 8-7, on Tuesday night in Montreal for their eighth straight victory.

The Pirates, who have won the last two NL East titles, sent nine men to the plate in the first. It was the fifth time in the last six games that Pittsburgh has batted around in an inning.

Trailing 8-3 after seven innings, Montreal closed to 8-5 in the eighth on homers by Tim Lincecum and Rick Cerone off Jerry Don Gleason.

Ivan Calderon hit a two-run homer with one out in the ninth, the first run given up by Roger Mason in 19th innings and 14 appearances since the start of spring training. But after Larry Walker grounded out and Wallace singled,

Mason got his third save by getting Marquis Grissom on a flyout.

Phillies 7, Cubs 5: Pinch-hitter Wally Backman broke a 10th-inning tie with a two-run single as Philadelphia rallied in Chicago to halt a six-game losing streak.

With the score tied at 4, Philadelphia got a leadoff single in the 10th from John Kruk. Heathcliff Slocumb walked Darren Daulton, Julio Pequeiro sacrificed and Ruben Amaro was walked intentionally, leading the Phillies to a 7-4 victory.

Backman, batting for Kim Battsie, hit a line drive off Slocumb's leg and the ball bounced into left field. Amaro took third on the play and scored on Jim Lindeman's groundout.

Mets 4, Cardinals 2: Willie Randolph broke a sixth-inning tie with a two-run double and Dwight Gooden pitched seven strong innings as New York won at home.

It was Gooden's longest stint in three starts this season as he continued a comeback from rotator cuff surgery in September. He gave up two runs on five hits, walked four and struck out three.

It also was a big night for the Mets catcher, Charlie O'Brien, who scored twice, picked a runner off first and threw out two runners attempting to steal.

Padres 4, Braves 2: In San Diego, Fred McGriff hit his fifth homer as the Padres snapped a five-game losing streak.

The Padres scored three runs in the fifth after being hit in the left knee by a line drive by Tony Gwynn. Atlanta's Deion Sanders had his 14-game hitting streak snapped, going 0-for-4.

Reds 4, Dodgers 3: Rip Roberts hit a tie-breaking single in the seventh in Los Angeles as Cincinnati ended a four-game losing streak in a game that featured near-fights in the eighth and ninth innings.

Both benches emptied in the eighth after Norm Charlton hit Darryl Strawberry on the right elbow. Strawberry headed for the mound before he was stopped by the plate umpire and the Reds catcher, Joe Oliver. No punches were thrown.

But Strawberry still looked like he wanted to get at Charlton after breaking up a double play at second base moments later.

In the ninth, Roberts exchanged words with the Dodgers catcher, Mike Scioscia, after a pitch from Tim Lincecum almost hit him. Roberts walked away from the plate, then returned and argued again with Scioscia as both benches emptied.

Rick Aguilera got four outs for his third save. Rich DelRosa (1-2) gave up all five runs and eight hits in five innings.

overcame an early two-goal deficit to rout the visiting Penguins.

Lemieux, who missed Game 1 with a bruised shoulder, set up goals by Larry Murphy and Kevin Stevens in the first 7:08. Bot Washington took the lead before the end of the opening period on goals by Dmitri Khristich, Peter Bondra and Michel Pivonka, then dominated the last two periods.

ADAMS DIVISION

Canadiens 5, Whalers 2: Denis Savard looked like his old self at the Forum, dishing out four assists as Montreal downed Hartford.

A first an icing call against Buffalo, Oates lined up for the draw to the left of the goaltender, Tom Draper, and timed it perfectly, whipping the puck past Draper for the winning goal.

As the final round of trials moves toward the clash of challenger and defender beginning May 9, the big money and big egos are stepping up.

Fay, Gardini, Koch. Each brings some-

A Complete Victor Again, Morris Shuts Down Indians, 2-1

The Associated Press

Jack Morris just keeps winning, and so does Toronto.

Morris pitched a five-hitter for his second complete game of the season as the Blue Jays beat Cleveland, 2-1, Tuesday night in Toronto for their 13th consecutive victory over the Indians.

Morris, who struck out eight and walked none, increased his career record against Cleveland to 30-10. "I got them a few times over the years when they weren't quite so good a club," Morris said. "This one is satisfying because they're a better team now."

Roberto Alomar homered off Dennis Cook after Devon White was hit by a third-inning pitch. "The mistake was not the

pitch to Alomar," Cook said. "It was hitting White. That's one too many mistakes against a club like Toronto."

Yankees 4, White Sox 3: Ozzie Guillen, Chicago's three-time All-Star shortstop, tore two knee ligaments in a ninth-inning collision at Comiskey Park and will miss the rest of the season.

Guillen went into left field for Mel Hall's fly ball and collided with Tim Raines. "Guillen's injury resulted in two torn ligaments due to hyperextension of his right knee," said Dr. Scott Price, who was to perform arthroscopic surgery on Wednesday.

Tigers 4, Rangers 2: Cecil Fielder hit a two-run home run in the first and drove in three runs as Detroit, on the road, stopped

a four-game losing streak. Bill Gullickson allowed one run and five hits in seven innings and Mike Henneman got six outs for his second save.

Red Sox 3, Brewers 1: Mike Gardiner allowed two hits in seven innings and Jody Reed singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth off James Austin in Milwaukee. Gardiner struck out a career-high nine and Danny Darwin got his first save since 1990.

Boston, held hitless for 5 1/2 innings by Ricky Bones, tied the score to the seventh on Jack Clark's run-scoring groundout off Mike Fetters. It was Clark's first RBI this season.

Orioles 10, Royals 4: Brady Anderson tripled twice in a game for the second time within a week as visiting Baltimore beat Kansas City in its 12th loss in 13 games.

Jose Mesa (1-1) gave up three runs and eight hits in 6 1/2 innings for his third victory in 18 starts.

Mark Gubicza (0-2) was tagged for seven runs and nine hits in 3 1/2 innings for Kansas City, off to the worst start in franchise history.

Angels 3, Athletics 2: Lee Stevens and Rene Gonzalez homered and Julio Valera pitched four innings of one-hit relief as visiting California stopped a 10-game losing streak against Oakland.

Valera replaced Don Robinson in the fifth after Robinson left with a sore left

hip. Bryan Harvey struck out the side in the ninth for his fourth save.

Dave Stewart (1-1) gave up three runs and five hits in six-plus innings. He walked six, including four in the third inning.

Twins 5, Mariners 2: Pat Mahomes, at 21 the youngest starting pitcher in the American League, won his first major-league game by allowing one run in six innings as visiting Minnesota stopped a three-game losing streak.

Gene Larkin hit a three-run homer and Chuck Knoblauch hit his second career homer for the Twins, who won for just the second time in nine games.

Rick Aguilera got four outs for his third save. Rich DelRosa (1-2) gave up all five runs and eight hits in five innings.

Both benches emptied in the eighth after Norm Charlton hit Darryl Strawberry on the right elbow. Strawberry headed for the mound before he was stopped by the plate umpire and the Reds catcher, Joe Oliver. No punches were thrown.

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SCOREBOARD

HOCKEY

Stanley Cup

DIVISION SEMIFINALS
(Best-of-7)

PATRICK DIVISION
(Games tied 1-1)

New Jersey 1 1 2-3
N.Y. Rangers 1 1 1-2

First Period—New Jersey, Messier 1, 9:24 (pen.), New Jersey, Todd (McGinnis/Messier), 10:57. Second Period—New Jersey, Stenstrom (Clayton/Fetters), 1:22. New Jersey, Leshkevich (Gorres/Messier), 4:18. New Jersey, Leshkevich (Gorres/Clayton), 5:29. New Jersey, Boschman (Clayton/Carter), 18:29. Third Period—New Jersey, Guerin (Boschman), 12:32. New Jersey, Messier 2, 16:27 (pen.). New Jersey, Lemieux 2 (Driver, Stenstrom), 11:32 (pen.). New Jersey, Westlund 1, 12:39 (pen.). Shots on goal—New Jersey (on Vancouver) 9-13-4-28. New York (on Toronto) 7-10-29.

(Washington leads series 2-0)

Pittsburgh 2 0 0-2
Washington 0 2 0-2

First Period—Pittsburgh, Marshall 1 (Lemieux, Teuchie), 3:14 (pen.). Pittsburgh, Stevens (Lemieux, Teuchie), 7:08 (pen.). Washington, Khristich 1 (Hester/Hencher), 18:24 (pen.). Washington, Bondra 3 (Lonsvoey, Pivonka), 13:42. Washington, Bondra 3 (Lonsvoey, Pivonka), 13:42. Washington, Cole 1 (Bondra/Pivonka), 2:47. Washington, Cloutier 1 (Ridley, Bondra), 17:47 (pen.). Third Period—Washington, Miller 1 (Cloutier, Ridley), 6:12.

Shots on goal—Pittsburgh (on Boston) 11-13-7-31. Washington (on Boston) 17-24-31.

ADAMS DIVISION
(Games tied 1-1)

Buffalo 0 1 1 0-2
Boston 2 0 0 1-3

First Period—Boston, Jensen 1 (Bosman, Ouellet), 7:59 (pen.). Boston, Jensen 1 (Hawkins, Wainwright), 12:22. Second Period—Buffalo, Lonsvoey 2 (Gorres/Clayton), 1:17 (pen.). Third Period—Boston, Prusek 1 (Cloutier).

BASEBALL

Major League Standings

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	22	8	.731	—
New York	19	11	.633	3 1/2
Baltimore	18	12	.600	4 1/2
Boston	17	13	.563	5 1/2
Milwaukee	17	13	.563	5 1/2
Cleveland	15	15	.500	7 1/2
Detroit	14	16	.464	8 1/2
Chicago	13	17	.433	9 1/2
Texas	12	18	.400	10 1/2
Minnesota	11	19	.364	11 1/2
Kansas City	11	19	.364	11 1/2

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oakland	18	5	.780	—
California	16	7	.692	2
Seattle	15	8	.652	3
Los Angeles	14	9	.609	4
San Diego	13	10	.565	5
Minnesota	12	11	.521	6
Kansas City	11	12	.476	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Pittsburgh	11	2	.846	—
New York	7	6	.538	3
St. Louis	6	7	.462	4
Philadelphia	6	7	.462	4
Chicago	5	8	.385	5
Pittsburgh	4	9	.308	6

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Los Angeles	11	2	.846	—
San Diego	7	6	.538	3
San Francisco	6	7	.462	4
San Francisco	6	7	.462	4
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San Francisco	6	7	.462	4

Tuesday's Line Scores

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	22	8	.731	—
New York	19	11	.633	3 1/2
Baltimore	18	12	.600	4 1/2
Boston	17	13	.563	5 1/2
Milwaukee	17	13	.563	5 1/2
Cleveland	15	15	.500	7 1/2
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Kansas City	11	19	.364	11 1/2

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Japanese Baseball

Central League

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Hiroshima	11	3	.786	—
Hokkaido	8	6	.571	3
Yokohama	8	6	.571	3
Chunichi	6	8	.429	5
Yamaguchi	3	11	.214	8
Tokyo	3	11	.214	8

Western League

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Hiroshima	11	3	.786	—
Hokkaido	8	6	.571	3
Yokohama	8	6	.571	3
Chunichi	6	8	.429	5
Yamaguchi	3	11	.214	8
Tokyo	3	11	.214	8

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	22	8	.731	—
New York	19	11	.633	3 1/2
Baltimore	18	12	.600	4 1/2
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West Division

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SIDELINES

Prague Expels German Soccer Fans

PRAGUE (AP)—At least 27 German soccer fans were expelled from the Czechoslovakia on Wednesday after hundreds of them went on a rampage in central Prague, the CSTK news agency reported.

They were among dozens detained by the police in Wenceslas Square after large groups of German teenagers smashed car windows, including those of at least two police cars, the authorities said. There were unconfirmed reports of at least one hoodlum brandishing a gun. It was not immediately known how many people were injured.

The youths were among several thousand Germans in Prague for a friendly match Wednesday between Czechoslovakia and Germany.

Indiana and UCLA Set for NIT Event

NEW YORK (AP)—Indiana and UCLA, which met for the West Regional title in the National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball tournament last month, are among the 16 teams selected to play in the 1992 Preseason NIT in November.

The field for the eighth annual tournament was announced Tuesday. In addition to the Hoosiers and Bruins, seven other NCAA teams — Seton Hall, Murray State, Florida State, Delaware, Texas-El Paso, Tulane and Iowa State — are in the field. Rutgers was the only team invited that played in the postseason NIT last month. The other teams chosen were Wagner, Siena, George Mason, St. Louis, Auburn and Indiana State.

For the Record

Max Steiner has resigned as president of the Swiss Ski Federation following Switzerland's dismal performance at the Albertville Olympics, where the team won only one alpine medal.

Five former Soviet Central Asian republics — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan — were granted provisional membership in the Olympic Council of Asia on Wednesday, allowing them to compete in the 1994 Asian Games in Japan.

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BRAZIL	01-800-200-100
CHINA	01-800-200-100
FRANCE	01-800-200-100
GERMANY	01-800-200-100</

ART BUCHWALD

The Check Is in the Mail

WASHINGTON — The main concern over the congressional check-kiting scandal is now that they are so used to writing rubber checks, will members of the House of Representatives soon issue rubber ones for domestic and foreign appropriations?

Let's say that Congress votes \$30 billion in aid to Russia. Boris Yeltsin gets the check and takes it down to his local Pushkin Savings and Loan to cash it.

The teller says, "Just a minute, please," and he goes to his computer. He is away for an hour and a half and on his return he tells him, "We're sorry, Mr. Yeltsin, but the computer indicates that there are no funds to cover this check."

Yeltsin blows up, "You must be crazy. It's issued by the United States House of Representatives and endorsed by all 535 members of Congress. It's as good as all the gold in Fort Knox."

"That's what they want you to think. But many congressmen have been writing rubber checks lately, and when we've called them on it they have been unable to make good on them."

By this time Yeltsin is boiling. He can't believe that a loyal ally such as the United States would stiff him for a measly \$30 billion. He puts a call through to the House banker.

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"This is Yeltsin. Your check bounced," he yells over the phone. "Just a moment. I'll transfer you to the chairman of the Check-Bouncing Subcommittee."

"House Check-Bouncing subcommittee. What can I do for you?"

"I am Yeltsin, the Russian, and you sent me a rubber check for \$30 billion."

"I'm sure there is a mistake. The House bank does not send out checks that are unsecured by funds."

"Maybe so, but when I handed the check in, the teller dribbled it for 10 minutes. Why does a superpower like the United States kike checks?"

"Well, to tell the truth, we've been a little short for the last three weeks. We were hoping that we'd have enough funds to cover yours when the tax revenues came in. Believe me, three months from now the check will be as good as Donald Trump's casinos."

"I can't wait three months. The rent is due on the Kremlin. I have to pay interest on the Siberian junk bonds, and I promised the army a raise if they would support me. I went but in hand to your Congress begging for money, and now stuck with a bum check. Is that a way of showing American-Russian friendship?"

"Mr. Yeltsin, you are not being singled out for this kind of treatment. Many congressmen have been writing rubber checks for years on their own accounts. It appears that one of their personal bum checks was sent to you in error."

"So what does that mean for Mother Russia?"

"We're going to get on it right away. Since it was obviously our mistake, we'll ask each member of Congress to chip in a part of his or her salary to make your check good."

"That solution smells fishy," Yeltsin said.

"Trust us, Mr. Yeltsin. When it comes to banking, our word is as good as our bond."

"How will I know when to expect the money?"

"We'll send you a fax in code which will read, 'Good news, Yeltsin — the check is in the mail.'"

Bus Traffic Vibrations Seen as Threat to Uffizi

FLORENCE — Heavy bus traffic along the Arno River is threatening the Uffizi gallery, home to some of Italy's finest paintings, according to Florence's art officials.

Artworks superintendent Antonio Paolucci and the Uffizi's curator, Anna Maria Petrucci Tofani, have written to the mayor warning him that vibrations caused by the municipal buses could damage the 16th-century building. Paolucci's office said. About 500 buses a day use the narrow quays that run along one end of the Uffizi. Paolucci and Tofani urged the authorities to relocate the routes.

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Confessions of a Hopeless Mahngaholic

By T. R. Reid

Washington Post Service

TOKYO — My name is T. R. Reid and I am a mahngaholic. On the theory that the way to deal with addiction is to confront it openly, to confess to the world, I hereby reject all my former rationalizations — that I could only find time to read it was only a social reader, that I didn't really bother me when my local dealer sold out before I could buy my weekly fix.

Rather, I now concede that I am hopelessly hooked on mahnga — the famous adult comic books that have become a dominant force in Japanese pop culture.

Every Thursday morning I race to the bookstore and plunk down 230 yen (\$1.85) for "Comic Morning." This 340-page weekly carries about 20 continuing comic strips, including the one I love most, "Section Chief Shima" — a gripping battle-in-the-suits corporate epic about one Shimasan, a hard-working "salaryman" at a giant consumer electronics company who wages a never-ending struggle for truth, profit and the Japanese Way.

You have to get to the newsstand early to buy "Comic Morning." The publisher prints 1.35 million copies each week, but they sell out by Thursday afternoon. By mahnga standards, though, even "Comic Morning" is small potatoes. The most popular mahnga weeklies here, like "Youths' Jump" and "Young Champion," sell about 6 million copies, putting them among the world's best-selling magazines.

The artists who write and draw the most popular mahnga are themselves extremely popular — not to mention extremely rich. Because mahnga are so widely read, they are as powerful as television in shaping the pop culture. Thus the mahnga artists play a major role in forming national attitudes, starting national fads and shaping the national language.

All of which means — this is what addicts always say, isn't it? — that I'm not the only one who's hooked on mahnga. Comic books for adults are ubiquitous in Japan; you see people from every walk of life reading them. One of the classic images of contemporary Japan, in fact, is the scene of the pin-striped financial officers from the world's biggest banks and brokerage houses who board the commuter train after a busy day of supervising billion-dollar loans, open their Gucci briefcases and pull out comic books to read on the ride home.

It seems to be conventional wisdom in the United States that Japan's adult comic books are full of violence and sex. In a CBS News report (regularly cited here as evidence of America's dismal ignorance about Japan), John Leonard reported that he had rarely seen anything "as disturbing

as the pornographic comics that sell in Japan in the tens of millions each week."

In a word, this is baloney. There are some downright raunchy mahnga here — usually sold in vending machines, to save the buyer from embarrassment. But sales of this filth are small; the porn comics represent a tiny corner of the vast mahnga world.

Actually, mahnga range over a broad canvas of styles and categories. There are comic textbooks and biographies, comic guides to cooking and golf, comic collections of famous mah-jongg games. There are many mindless joke strips. There are mahnga versions of Shakespeare, "The Communist Manifesto" and the Bible.

But for most of us addicts, the mahnga that really matter are the "story comics," which introduce a setting and a panoply of characters, and set forth a story line that spins out for years or decades. In their depth and plotting, and particularly in the cinematic quality of their art, these mahnga serials are strikingly different from what Americans think of as comics.



Kenshi Hirokane, the author of hugely popular "graphic novels" in Japan.

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Japan's "graphic novels" cover the waterfront in form and style. There are wry, satirical sports stories and deeply emotional romantic tales. There are many mahnga on political themes.

In fact, I first got hooked when someone told me about a notorious serial called

"I kind of cringe when I hear people call my work 'comic books,'" says Kenshi Hirokane, a rich, famous, but still remarkably down-to-earth mahnga artist who has created some of the most popular characters in mahnga literature.

"I have nothing against American comic books like Archie or Marvel," Hirokane continues. "But that's not what I do. I think the best translation for 'mahnga' in my case is 'graphic novel.' I'm writing novels in serial form. I write with pictures as well as words."

Indeed, today's story mahnga evoke the serial novels of the Victorian era, when the likes of Dickens, Trollope, and Thackeray were writing their long, densely populated novels on a schedule, a chapter every two weeks for the pulp magazines.

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PEOPLE

Tributes for Carson From the Competition

It may be a genuine tribute — or they may think they wouldn't have as much of an audience anyway — but the impending retirement of Johnny Carson has inspired the competition of the air. At least for his last "Tonight" show. On cable TV, the 24-hour Comedy Central is "going dark," said Tony Danza, a spokesman. "We're probably going to put up a state that says something like, 'We're watching Johnny Carson's last show and so should you.'" Arsenio Hall, whose syndicated show overlaps Carson's, is going even further. For the week leading up to Carson's last show on May 22, Hall will air reruns of his talk show, because he's "going to be home watching Carson," a spokesman said. Carson has been the host of the NBC fixture for 30 years.

Mike Tyson has a new job and a cellmate. The former heavyweight boxing champion, doing six years for rape, was assigned to work in the recreation area of the Indiana Youth Center, as his prison is called, where he will earn 65 cents a day keeping track of equipment and performing maintenance.

The sportscaster Pat Summerall has been granted an indefinite leave by CBS and has voluntarily checked into the Betty Ford Clinic in California, a source close to the announcer said. Summerall is the network's voice for NFL football and host of its golf and tennis coverage. The clinic, where the rich and famous tend to go for problems with drug and alcohol abuse.

Twenty-five years ago Bobby Short first sat down at the piano in the Cafe Carlyle, where performing "I like being in my own living room." The music that still echoes him? Cole Porter, and Bessie Smith blues songs.

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Today's

INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT

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PERSONALS

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